



SOCCER ACTION

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CRUNCH!



● Darren Cooper found out that he isn't an immovable object and that Green Gully goalkeeper Lou Denys can be an irresistible force. They met during Green Gully's 1-0 win over Croydon last week in the 1987 Buffalo Cup at Olympic Park. Photographer Les Shorrock captured their collision which left young Cooper writhing in agony on the turf. But no doubt the hard-running Croydon forward will be all the more wiser for the experience. For John Mangan's preview and a complete round-up of all the Buffalo Cup action, including match reports and details, turn to pages 8 and 9.

BERNAL'S SET FOR SPAIN

Andrew Bernal, star of the Australian team which qualified for the 1985 World Youth Cup Finals, has been selected to play for the Spanish under 21 team.

It was only after selecting him that Spanish authorities learnt that he was ineligible because he played for the young Socceroos.

Bernal went to Spain in 1985 to try to fulfill his boyhood dream of playing in the Spanish First Division. Having spent time with Sporting Gijon, he is now playing for Jerez Cadiz in Second Division.

However, he could be back in Australia by June.

It was only when he arrived in Spain that he discovered that in spite of being a Spanish citizen because he had played for

But first former Roo star has to complete national service stint

Australia he was classified as a foreign player. Spanish clubs only are allowed to field two foreign players in any game.

With the country's leading clubs spending millions of dollars on foreign stars with huge reputations it will be virtually impossible for Bernal to get a game at the level at which he thinks he can play.

However, Bernal does have one last hope.

It is possible if he completes 12-months national service in Spain he could be re-classified as a local player. He expects to know one way or the other by the end of the Spanish season. If he finds he cannot change his playing status he will return to Australia to reconsider his future.

Bernal is a graduate from the Australian Institute of Sport and played as a sweeper in Australia's World Youth Cup qualifying games in 1985 but went to Spain before the finals were played.

Bernal has had to make changes to his lifestyle to play football in Spain. He can rarely go out with his



JOHN MANGAN

friends for fear of being mobbed by fanatical Spanish fans who idolise their footballers.

When he did get a weekend off recently and went to a disco, word got back to the club that he and two or three of his team-mates had been seen partying at one o'clock in the morning. The next day he was brought before the manager and fined the equivalent of \$500 for undisciplined behaviour!

Croatia denies Banovic claim

Melbourne Croatia reacted angrily to last week's story in 'Soccer Action' in which Yalka Banovic claimed that he had been "conned" into thinking that Croatia was really keen to sign him.

Banovic said: "I did everything possible to join Croatia. ... I just want all the Croatia supporters to know that it wasn't the money that stopped me returning this year. ... I was prepared to settle for a couple of thousand dollars signing on."

Croatia secretary Steve Dracic denied that it was the committee which decided that it didn't want Banovic, the transfer listed Brunswick Juventus goalkeeper.

"We entered negotiations with Yalka with good intentions. We decided that we would spend \$18,000 altogether to get Yalka. We thought that we could get him for about \$10,000 and if that had been the case then we were prepared to give him \$8,000 as a signing-on fee," said Dracic.

"At first, Yalka wanted \$15,000 to sign on, provided we only had to pay \$10,000 for his transfer. I understand that Yalka was prepared to accept \$10,000 to sign on if we had to pay \$15,000 for his transfer. We had set that \$15,000 limit for the whole deal — transfer fee and signing-on fee — and weren't prepared to budge. That's why negotiations broke down," said Dracic.

GONZALEZ SIGNS

NSW State League club Uruguay has signed former Uruguay international defender Washington Gonzalez and expects him to arrive in Sydney within the next three weeks.

Gonzalez is a former Nacional and Penarol player. He played for Nacional against Nottingham Forest in the Seiko Super Cup match in Tokyo in 1981. That game was for the world club championship and Nacional won 2-0.

Uruguay announced last week that it had changed its name. It was known as Auburn Uruguay last year but that's no longer the case. Auburn was one of the oldest clubs in NSW and, like Hakoah in Melbourne, now is no more.

CLOUGH SAYS SORRY

Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough has apologised for calling African soccer nations "a load of spearthrowers who still go around eating each other".

Clough made the remark after African countries said Britain should be restricted to a single national team — rather than four home country teams — in the 1990 World Cup.

Clough apologised after a West Indian group complained to the English Football Association.

He will not be disciplined, an FA spokesman said.

INSIDE

• Straight Shooting with Peter Scott — p.5; Raul Blanco's back in town — p.3; George Cross star swept up the changing rooms — p.2; Meet the Dutch Maradona — p.12; Italy on course for European Championship Finals — p.15; Green Gully signs the \$50,000 man — p.10; NSW State Bank Challenge Cup — p.6.

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Williams joins Springvale, Boland next?

Victorian State League club Springvale City signed Jim Williams and Dragan Vasic last week and was rumored to be interested in Dennis Boland.

Vasic, who played with Springvale coach Bobby McLachlan at Footscray JUST, was bought from Royal Richmond for \$1,800. Vasic was the leading scorer in the Second Division of the Victorian League last season and was beaten on a countback by Royal Richmond team mate Joe Picioane for the best and fairest award in Second Division.

Williams, a former Victorian representative, made his mark at Slavia before joining Heidelberg. It was McLachlan who then brought Williams to Green Gully in the early 1980s and last year Williams played with Altona Gate.

McLachlan expects the State League to be a tougher competition this year than it has been for quite a while. He expects Williams to be an inspiration to his team.

"It's so refreshing seeing a player like Jim at training. He's so competitive and he's got such an appetite for the game that it puts younger players to shame — and this is a man who has won so many medals at Green Gully," said McLachlan.

Springvale also has appointed Billy Milne as reserve team coach. Milne comes to Springvale after spending a couple of seasons with Gus Macleod at Fawkner.

Boland was one of many Frankston Pines players to ask to go on the transfer list after Pines lost 4-2 to Preston Macedonia in the Buffalo Cup last Saturday night.

The recent upheaval at Pines, which saw the club forced to close its social rooms thereby losing a vital source of income, has led to a lot of unrest among the players.

"Soccer Action" reported last week that most players had opted down after a new committee was voted into office but it seems that that isn't the case.

Alex Dick and John Cullen have joined Boland on the transfer list, both at their own request, and clubs no doubt will be clamoring for their services.

Pines are rumored to be offering just \$40 a fortnight to their first team players, making them the lowest paid in the Victorian State League.

Boland is on a free transfer so the former South Melbourne Hellas and Footscray JUST goalkeeper, who still is one of the finest custodians in Victoria, certainly won't be short of offers.

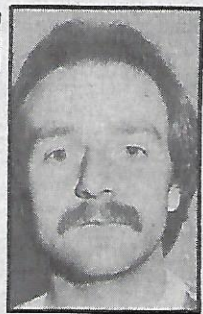
Meanwhile, Thomastown has placed eight players on the transfer list. In addition to

By JOHN MANGAN

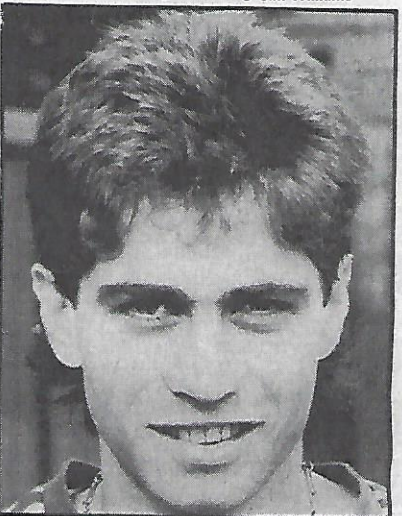
Steve Hackett and Brian Flaherty, who have been unsettled for some time, Thomastown has listed Mike Rainey, Robbie Evans, Danny Aceski, Mario Romaccolani, and Marino Franceschi and George Tsangos.

All transfer fees are negotiable.

Rainey has retired but Thomastown coach Mike Lynn believes that the former Hakoah, Preston Macedonia and Croydon defender could be tempted to return to the playing arena if the right offer came along.



• Jim Williams



• Frank Farina: "Everything is so professional at Marconi, down to the little things. All the gear is supplied, they have a full-time physio and full-time groundsmen — it's excellent."

FEE HOLDS NO FEARS FOR FRANK

By JOHN MANGAN

Playing with a \$30,000 price-tag on his head doesn't concern Marconi's exciting new signing from Sydney Hakoah, Frank Farina.

"The club obviously decided before they bought me that they wanted me and I've just got to go out now and play my natural game," the Socceroo striker said.

Sometimes a club can spend a lot of money on a player and the pressure of the club's and the fans' expectations can affect the player's game, but that's just not the case at Marconi.

"We're not a one-man team and I'm not the only new signing in the side so I'm in a position where I can just get on with playing the game — which is what I have been doing," said Farina.

Eddie Thomson, Farina's coach at Sydney Hakoah, was reluctant to let Farina leave the club but the departure was an amicable one.

"Eddie rang me on the Saturday morning before my first game for Marconi to wish me all the best. He told me to forget the pressure and just go out and play," said Farina.

At Marconi, Farina is teaming up with Gerardo Gomez who also made the move over the summer from Sydney Hakoah.

"Gerry's position was different to mine — he had requested a transfer — while in my case Marconi had approached Hakoah and then Hakoah asked me if I wanted to go."

A number of top players have left Hakoah over the close season for various reasons. John Kosmina couldn't agree terms and joined Olympic white Joe Watson wanted to take the post of player-coach at NSW Second Division club Kingsford. Hakoah released Watson on a free transfer as he had given many years of service to the club.

Farina is understandably excited about having joined a club which he acknowledges has, on paper, one of the best teams in the country. But it's not just that that has impressed Farina.

"Everything is so professional at Marconi, down to the little things. All the gear is supplied, they have a full-time physio and full-time groundsmen — it's excellent."

"And of course having an Italian name doesn't do any harm in a club like this," he joked.

Farina is also fortunate that he knew most of the Marconi players before he joined as well as having played with many of them in the national team. With only a handful of games under his belt for Marconi he feels very much at home in his new surroundings.

Marconi's new coach, Roberto Vieri, seems destined to end the team's image of being a cautious, defensive outfit.

"Roberto likes the close-in stuff, the one-touch football, and if you look at our team with players like Gerry (Gomez), David Lowe and Ian Gray, we have a very attacking midfield."

Farina will be teaming up in Marconi's forward-line with another newcomer, Steve Maxwell, who has made the trip from Adelaide Juventus to join the squad. Farina says that Maxwell is settling in well and, certainly, in the State Bank Challenge Cup, both strikers have been putting the ball in the back of the net.

Farina is looking forward to a successful year with the new-look Marconi line-up and thinks that Marconi's depth will be crucial as the season unfolds.



• Andy Edwards with the George Cross team, back row: Steve Richardson, Lou Kastner, Sean Keogh, Andrew Marth, John Markovski, Carl Gilder, Kevin Innes, Noel Mitten, Don Maclaren. Front row: Paul Trimble, Shaun Parton, Chris Taylor, Jeff Faulkner, Roger Bain, Edwards. Picture: LES SHORROCK.

Edwards: Made debut then cleaned out the rooms!

By PAUL MOON

George Cross striker Andy Edwards had to clean out a changing room immediately after making his debut in senior soccer.

This, it must be hastily added, was not punishment for a poor display, but, as the groundstaff boy rostered for "home dressing-room duty", it was his responsibility to lay out Wrexham's kit before the match and mop out its changing room afterwards.

Edwards joined home town club Wrexham, then a proud member of English League Division Two, straight from school in 1981 and just over a year later was informed by manager Bobby Roberts that one of the sets of strips the youngster had laid out for a Milk Cup game against Shrewsbury Town would be worn by him. This was just one hour before the kick-off.

Edwards replaced the injured Dixie McNeill (now Wrexham's manager) and made an impressive showing, slogging away tirelessly during a 1-0 win.

A Football League debut came a week later against Lin-

coln City and he made 15 appearances during the 1982-83 season — an unhappy one for Wrexham which was relegated from Division Three.

The team's slump continued. It ended the following campaign fifth from the bottom of Division Four, but nonetheless Edwards' career progressed quite nicely. Now a full-time professional, he had made 29 further league appearances and won caps for Wales at youth level.

The 1984-85 season saw him finish runner-up in the Wrexham Supporters' Club Player of the Year poll after scoring 11 goals in 37 games.

A hard-working, determined, goal-creating grafter rather than a natural scorer, the blonde forward (and occasional midfielder) was given a free transfer in May, 1986 by McNeill who prefers strikers to be in his own mould (he scored 236 league goals).

Edwards' release angered many Wrexham fans, though most of them will concede that

their team is now finding the back of the net more often.

Edwards played in 114 league games for the north Wales club and notched 27 goals. The respected observers of the English League Division Four I contacted, rated him as

a "very useful" performer.

After a settling down period at the end of the last Australian season, the Welshman, who will be 22 on March 28, should now be ready to confirm his worth to George Cross followers.

Football for Africa



• Steve Archibald

Diego Maradona, the world's greatest footballer, and Pele and George Best, who both claimed that title in their heyday, could all be in action at Wembley in April.

Steve Archibald, the former Tottenham and Scottish striker now with Barcelona, is hoping to arrange a football for Africa spectacular at Wembley and he met representatives of the English football association last weekend to discuss the matter.

Archibald, who stresses that this match has nothing to do with the Football League v The Rest of The World match proposed for next August, says that he got the idea of such a feast of football after seeing a Bob Geldof Live Aid programme.

"I was really shocked by the condition of people in Africa and began to organise a football spectacular," he says.

"I have written to all the world's leading players and I have had replies from Maradona, Schuster, Valdano, Bustegueno, Ardiles, Linaker, Hughes, Schumacher and Maradona's two brothers, plus the two Danas, Laudrup and Elkjaer, saying they will play."

"I am also hoping that Pele and Best could perhaps play for one half each and I want to stage the game, hopefully at Wembley, in April."

"I have already had FIFA permission to stage such a match."

An English FA official said that nothing definite had been decided and pointed out that all the world stars, even if they were prepared to play in such a game, would have to get permission from both their clubs and their national associations.

Archibald is not quite sure what the two teams will be called.

"Perhaps it could be the Rest of The World v Princess Anne's XI or something like that. But that could be decided later if we get the go-ahead."

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BLANCO'S BACK!

Raul Blanco is back in town!

After an absence of 18 months, the ex-coach of St George, Marconi, Canterbury, Melita Eagles and assistant to the Australian national youth coach has returned from a successful visit to Argentina.

Les Sheinflug, Mike Urukale, Rale Rasie, Ljubo Gokovic... just some of his colleagues and close friends who were among the first to greet the likeable Blanco, affectionately known as "Menotti".

Blanco's been a long time gone from Sydney, so

By
ALEX VESIC

how did he spend his time on a continent where football is not merely sport, but life itself?

"I am usually not short of words, but there are no adequate words to describe the way you feel if you are closely involved in the game in Argentina. An example was the 1986 World Cup Final. The streets of Buenos Aires were totally deserted. There was no life at all.

Then Diego Maradona sent that incredible pass to Burruchaga and Argentina became champion of the world for the second time in eight years. It was incredible," said Blanco.

"People poured into the streets by the thousands. A city of 10 million looked as if it had fifty million people. All the country's massive economic problems were forgotten. The problems caused by the military also were forgotten with people streaming into the streets their faces wet with tears of joy."

Blanco coached Dock Sud, the Argentinian side

which in 1985 finished eighth and was looking for a miracle in 1986 to reach the Second Division. Blanco provided that miracle.

"I had problems at the start of my stay in Argentina. I was hoping for an extended holiday and was given an offer by Dock Sud on my arrival. However, I could not coach since I didn't have an Argentinian coaching badge. Not to dwell on this point too long, I went through a series of formalities and a couple of long interviews before obtaining a badge which gave me the chance to coach."

"I was working close to the home of San Telmo, the team I played for in my youth. In fact it was San Telmo which stood in the way of Dock Sud and a place in Second Division and we had to play two games against San Telmo to decide which side would be promoted. We drew 0-0 and won 3-2 in the return leg."

"I still get goose pimples, just thinking about that second game. The roar of the crowd and the approval they show of the spectacle is incredible."

"At times it is almost frightening!"

Being at the centre of football euphoria in Latin America obviously reminded Blanco of his playing days and rekindled his enthusiasm for the game.

"I remember going to see Boca Juniors playing River Plate with 50,000 people in attendance. One side of the ground was populated by Boca supporters and the other by River Plate supporters. The singing went on for the full 90 minutes and it was rivalry at its best."

"While one side of the ground was singing and

dancing to the beat of drums the other was hushed just waiting its turn. Whichever group of supporters you happen to be with you go along with their singing and dancing or you wind up in trouble."

It is that kind of atmosphere that gives Argentinian soccer a fervor unique in South America.

Brazilians have their sambas while the Argentinians sing. And play great football too!

But surely there is life outside of football.

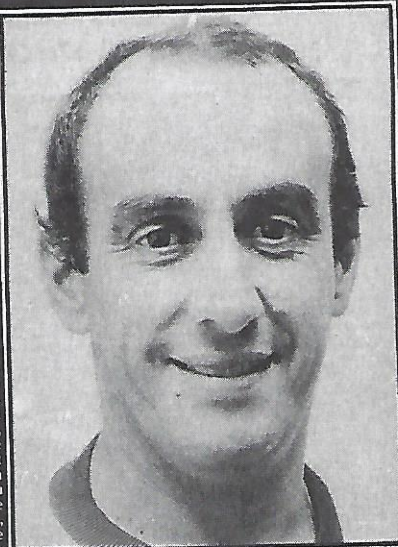
"If there is I haven't seen it," said Blanco.

"I used to walk along Hingeniero Huergo, the street close to Dock Sud stadium. There was this little shop I used to go to and buy drinks or sweets. Along the road you'd meet a milkman, a shop owner, a pensioner, a housewife or children and without exception they'd clench their fists in salute to you and your team. We are going to win on Sunday, eh?" they'd ask but there was no way I could get involved in any conversation or I'd never get home!

"Do you know that for about a week after Argentina won the World Cup about 25,000 people stood in front of Diego Maradona's home in Buenos Aires chanting: 'Diego! Diego! Diego!' His mother would turn up on the balcony every now and then to wave to the crowd."

So why did Blanco decide to return to Australia?

"My 20 years in Australia was not just a period of time that passed without friends being made. And I think I made a fair number of friends. Those I remembered from my youth in Argentina have gone, some to other cities, while some have vanished. I felt happy with my family, my



● Raul Blanco — back from Argentina after taking Dock Sud to promotion to Second Division.

parents, my brother, my two sisters, but I realised my home was the one I made for myself in Australia and I knew that my holiday had to come to an end."

So what does Blanco think about Australia's chance at World Cup level after his stay in the country of the world champion?

"We have to work at it, but let's not forget that we have as many successful youth players as anybody else in the world. Burruchaga and Clausen were in the World Youth Cup in 1981 and part of the Argentinian team that was defeated by Australia 2-1. Five years later they

were in the side which won the World Cup!

"In the meantime let's not forget our successful players from our 1981 national youth team. Mitchell is in West Germany, Patikas in Greece, Raskopoulos and Wheatley are in the national side and Blair is on the sidelines waiting for his chance to get into the team. Oscar Crino has played abroad. There was and still is a lot of talent in Australia."

His beloved Buenos Aires now is as far away as ever. Hingeniero Huergo, Dock Sud and San Telmo are just memories, albeit great ones.

Raul Blanco is back and back to stay.



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Group A standings

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Ad. Juventus	2	0	0	7	0	4
Beograd	1	0	1	2	2	2
Campbelltown	1	0	1	2	2	2
Salisbury	0	0	2	0	7	0

Group B standings

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Ad. Hellas	2	0	0	9	3	4
Ad. Croatia	1	1	0	4	3	3
Para Hills	0	1	1	3	5	1
Polonia	0	0	2	3	8	0

CAMPBELLTOWN CITY 2 (Amos 22nd and 72nd) BEOGRAD 1 (Preston 65th) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 2400 (double-header). Referee: Bob Kerr 7. Cautions: Amos (CC).

CAMPBELLTOWN CITY 1 (Parks 9, Richardson 7, Duwerkerk 7, Tufts 8, Gabbana 6 (S. Parks 41st, 7), Amos 8, Webb 6 (Dooley 41st 7), Beltrame 7, Halliday 7, Gray 7, McNally 7. Coach: David Jenkins. BEOGRAD: Pasquini 6, Krizan 7, Signore 8, Greaves 8, Alberton 6, Douglas 7 (Mikar 67th), M. Brazzale 6 (Welsh 41st 7), A. Brazzale 7, Goldsmit 6 (Rusmir 41st 5), Arezina 8, Preston 7. Coach: Norman Lees.

ADELAIDE HELLAS 3 (Price 2nd and 33rd, Atsalsas 56th) PARA HILLS 1 (B. Crook 18th) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Referee: Graham Neal 7. Cautions: Mousoulis (Hellas).

ADELAIDE HELLAS: Sprud 7, Francis 7, Hiern 8, Mousoulis 7, Panagis 7, Manou 7 (Stefanopoulos 74th), Keramidis 6 (Atsalsas 41st), Hristodoulou 7, Honeyman 7, Konstantopoulos 8 (Koufoulis 74th), Price 8. Coach: Peter Jaksa.

PARA HILLS: M. Crook 9, Harvey 7 (Dawson 47th 7), Tomlinson 7, Humphreys 8, Horry 7, Leembruggen 6 (Waine 70th), Klein 7, T. Blue 6, B. Crook 7. Coach: Barry Simpson.

After scoring a hat-trick for Hellas in its first game against Polonia, diminutive Gary Price delivered the goods again to lead the blue and whites to the top of Group B.

Price this time notched two goals to sink Para Hills and assure Hellas of a semi-final berth.

Second half substitute Steve Atsalsas made it 3-1 with a 56th minute effort for his second goal of the series, but the scoreline failed to tell the dramatic story of the heroic resistance displayed by former Hellas goalkeeper Martyn Crook.

After 11 years of faithful service to Hellas, Martyn Crook returned to his former club to be faced by his ex-Hellas team mates.

Familiarity, it seems, breeds contempt, because Hellas threw everything at its former hero in the first 30 minutes, but apart from Price's second minute goal when he was cruelly exposed, Martyn Crook performed brilliantly.

The former Soccerero had the crowd roaring as he stopped drives from George Konstantopoulos (three) and Lou Hristodoulou and generally marshalled his Para Hills defenders.

Crook's efforts and a penalty

Success tonight vital to Beograd

converted by his young brother, Barry, kept the score at 1-1 until the 33rd minute when Price hit home his second goal.

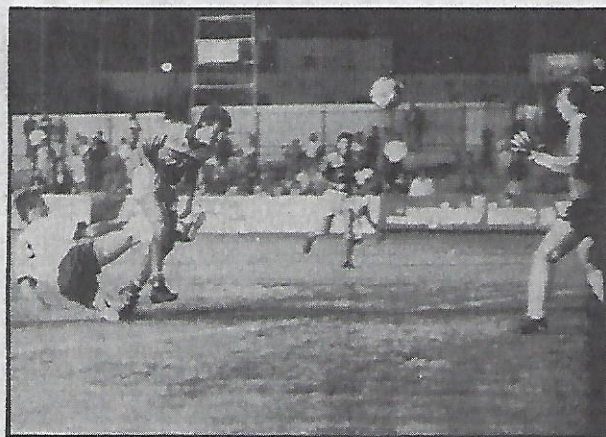
Hellas had experienced Gary Sproul back in goal at the expense of young Peter Theodorakakos, who earned rave notices for his performance against Polonia.

Para welcomed back former captain Laurie Humphreys after a year out of the game because of a knee injury, and Geoff Tomlinson, who has returned from England.

Rothmans League champion Campbelltown City won its first game of the series with two penalty kicks from captain Steve Amos to throw the Group A semi-final spots into confusion.

With Campbelltown and Beograd locked together on two points each after two games, the semi-finalists could be decided on goal difference.

But Campbelltown's chances of major round participation appear better because it must face Salisbury United in its next match, while Beograd must play national champion



Steve Atsalsas of Adelaide Hellas (second from left) heads past former team mate Martyn Crook, now the first choice goalkeeper at Para Hills. Picture: FRANK HOBBS.

Adelaide City Juventus tonight (Wednesday). Campbelltown had a pre-match set-back when it lost striker Chris Key because of an eye injury suffered while playing tennis.

It was a new-look City which faced Beograd as manager-coach David Jenkins paraded new signings Bobby Tufts, Duane Gray and Steve McNally.

The new trio were instant successes — Tufts was superb

at sweeper, Gray was commanding in the midfield and McNally proved an effective striker.

Beograd had its stroke of luck with the return to duty of experienced Brian Welsh, Richard Preston and Dusan Rusmir.

It was makeshift striker Paul Beltrame who engineered the first goal with a header which Beograd's Martin Goldsmit handled on the goal-line with his goalkeeper Frank Pasquini

beaten. Amos expertly slammed the spot-kick home — a feat he repeated after David Alberton handled the ball in the 72nd minute.

In between those penalties, Beograd levelled through Preston, but despite some desperately hard running from Djuro Arezina and Andy Brazzale and some enterprising forward moves, Campbelltown's brilliant goalkeeper Robbie Parks had the final say.

8-day training trek for Olympia

By
WALTER PLESS

Olympia-WPL set a precedent in Tasmanian soccer this week when the club's senior squad embarked on an 8-day training camp in Sydney.

The side left Hobart last Saturday and will return this Sunday.

"I thought I could prepare the team better for the start of the season in terms of a system of play by going on this training trip," coach Ken Morton said.

"We've had 18 training sessions to date and this will be the final to our pre-season work."

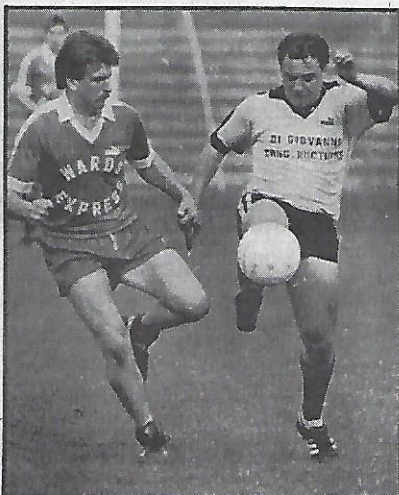
Olympia will play three practice matches, against New South Wales state league teams Sutherland, Blacktown City and Melita Eagles.

The trip is costing \$10,000 and the players raised the money themselves through various fund-raising ventures.

The Olympia squad making the trip is: Martin Burden, Chris Hey, Matthew Bloomfield, David Crosson, Michael Berwick, Chris Barrell, Roger Munro, Michael Goldsmith, Perry Forster, Paul Xanthopoulos, Craig Nichols, Andrew Hart, Anthony Greenwood, Paul Tsangaris, Con Tsikis, Marco Nikitaras, George Xanthopoulos and John Collar.

Pless appointed

Karl Pless has been appointed senior coach of Cad-



Peter Angel (left) of White Eagles confronts Ronnie de Felice of Juventus-Pioneer. Eagles won this pre-season friendly 2-1.

bury State League club Caledonians.

The club had announced the appointment of Welshman and former Ipswich town regular, 32-year-old Les Tibbot, last November, but he decided not to come to Tasmania at the last

minute, despite having signed a contract.

Calles intend taking some form of proceedings against Tibbot for breach of contract. Pless, who gained his Level Three coaching certificate last year, has coached at both ju-

nior and senior levels with Croatia-Glenorchy and Clarence, respectively.

Calles have signed four new players, while former player Robin Dodds has returned from Western Australia, where he moved last season.

Glenn Callaghan, a 29-year-old defender comes from George Town, while Brett Atkins is from Western Suburbs.

Mark Honeyman has joined the club from Rapid and David Arnott has signed after being away from Hobart for the past six years.

Tuting back

Vic Tuting MBE has been re-elected as president of the Tasmanian Soccer Federation, a position he has held since 1959.

Tuting, a senior vice-president of the ASF, was first elected to the TSF in July, 1937.

Roy Stoneman and Ross Wesson are joint vice-presidents of the TSF. Stoneman also is the treasurer.

Eagles triumph

White Eagles, the reigning Cadbury State League champions, beat Juventus-Pioneer 2-1 in a pre-season friendly last week.

Andrew Leszczynski, from the penalty spot, and David Stoddart gave Eagles a 2-0 half-time lead before Frank Genovesi pulled a goal back for Juventus in the second half.

Both teams have new coaches, with former player Bobby Rybak taking over at Eagles from Steve Darby, who is now living in Canberra, and Peter Irvine, last year's Newcastle boss replacing David Smith at Juventus.

Two for Azzurri

Newcomer to the Cadbury State League, Hobart City-Azzurri, has signed Neil Bishop from Taroom and Franco Previdi from White Eagles.

Both are strikers but Previdi will miss the Cascade State Summer Cup series as he will undergo a knee operation soon.

Howrah duo Karl Brightman and Duncan Swift are training with City, as is Metro's Brett Home, while the club is also negotiating with Inter-Monaro's Carlo Ambrosino.

Another player training with City is Johan Hosenbirk, formerly with Box Hill and Wilhelmans in Victoria.

City was scheduled to travel north on the weekend to meet Ulverstone and Devonport City in pre-season friendlies.

Parker to go?

Top Tasmanian striker Ian Parker of Caledonians has been training with and playing friendly matches for Juventus-Pioneer.

Parker's future with Calles is uncertain but it is not unusual for him to train with other clubs in the pre-season months before returning to Calles just before the first ball is kicked in

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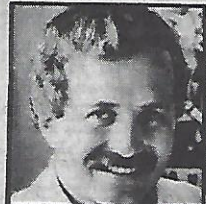
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© Frank Lowy may be president of Sydney's Hakoah Club and have a decisive say in Westfield affairs but soccer fans needn't get carried away by Westfield's takeover of the Ten Network. It's not going to lead to a major commercial TV breakthrough for the code in this country.

Once again, it seems, that soccer — or more precisely the West End National League — is off on a chase after the rainbow.

Our officialdom is off into battle, with Summer Soccer boldly emblazoned on its banners.

From the way the handwagon has gathered speed in recent weeks it may seem a wise move to find a bookie willing to offer odds on a switch in seasons.

Now don't misunderstand me, I am not opposed to the idea, not at all.

Summertime football, during months of daylight saving and balmy nights, played on pitched lush and green, instead of muddy and/or bumpy, has to be a vast improvement on current conditions during the height of winter in July and early August especially.

Yes, not only am I not opposed to the innovation — I am, in fact, positively in favor of it.

But, as so often in the past, once again I would risk getting under the skin of our soccer administrators by playing Devil's Advocate.

What disturbs me is that with soccer in an almighty hole in this country, and seemingly furiously engaged in digging itself in ever deeper, with an enthusiasm bordering on desperation the West End NSL clubs give all the appearance of looking on the summer soccer idea as the way and the means of saving their bacon, putting them firmly on the road to long-term success.

That is a beautiful dream, but with dispassionate examination falls far short of reality.

A change of seasons can only be considered part of a package of measures which are needed to start the long climb back to the pedestal on which soccer was some 20 years ago.

Vastly improved club management is a major priority, with only a few clubs measuring up to the task in this most vital of all areas.

A professional attitude to public and media relations is another element where shortcomings are often just short of tragic — although improvements have been made.

The upgrading of facilities has been lurching ahead in a stop-go fashion, but some of the grounds are a little less spartan than they were a few years ago.

But all the foregoing pale into insignificance against the most vital factor of all.

Two decades and more ago facilities were much worse than now and club management — with some rare exceptions — wasn't of a particularly high standard, either.

What was better was the sheer quality and entertainment value of the soccer served up by our top teams and players.

No amount of jargon by current day coaches, no learned words by soccer "academics" about the improvements in fitness, strength and speed of the game will convince this columnist to change his mind.

What's more, I am supported by the hundreds and thousands who have gone missing from the soccer stadia of this country since the 1960s.

THAT MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM IS UPON US AGAIN

The vanishing fan is not a phenomena unique to Australia, the same has been happening world-wide for many years.

Our problem is that countries like England, Argentina and the rest of them have started their decline in crowd figures from a much higher level.

If a 50,000 average per game falls to 30,000 the consequences may well be near disastrous financially, but the atmosphere, excitement and sheer magic created by a big crowd roaring its encouragement week in and week out still is there.

On the other hand, the drop in Australian support has seen crowds sink into the hundreds in many, many cases.

Nor was the cancer of so-called modern football, a world-wide disease as far as I am concerned, the only culprit.

There were the well documented self-inflicted wounds as well.

Such as the Great Name Witch Hunt, which turned uncounted thousands of ethnic supporters off our game for good.

Or the helter skelter expansion of the NSL to 24 teams when we had — maybe, just maybe — enough good players by current standards to staff, say, 10 teams.

All in all, summer soccer, while a highly desirable move if implemented sensibly and with sensitivity, can only have any lasting beneficial effect on the game in Australia if part of a much larger, all encompassing package of administrative and technical reforms.

Anything short of that will see our change of seasons becoming just another way-station in soccer's decline into terminal mediocrity.

Selective listening

Many of the accusations levelled at soccer's bosses in Australia concentrate on their glaring unwillingness and seeming inability to listen to advice.

This, of course, isn't entirely true.

What is manifestly true, though, is the fact that the game's decisionmakers seem to have an uncanny ability to sift through advice and adopt as their own only the bad kind.

Summer soccer, previously mooted but defeated by the concerted campaign of a narrow section of the media is the most topical example.

Then we had the snake oil salesmen who saw salvation in American style nicknames.

Or the promoters who weren't backward in frankly admitting — in the company of media men and women

— that they found the sport from which their livelihood was derived a colossal bore.

Or the dinky-di smarties who managed to get traditional names banned and in one fell swoop managed to banish a generation and a half of soccer's natural support.

Will this knack for listening to bad advice finally disappear?

On the answer hangs soccer's survival and the chances — however, slim at this point in time — of its climb back to big-time status.

Misplaced hopes?

There was an unmistakable ripple of excitement in soccer circles when Westfield's takeover of television channels 10 in Sydney and Melbourne was announced early last week.

Soccer, or more accurately the NSL, is still in search of commercial television exposure.

Frankly, even a bit of ABC would be more palatable than the much underestimated and unappreciated SBS coverage.

It is no secret that the man who has the decisive say in Westfield affairs is Frank Lowy, who is deeply steeped in soccer involvement and tradition.

Lowy is president of Sydney's Hakoah Club, was one of the two prime movers in the establishment of the NSL — Sir Arthur George only jumping on board when it became abundantly clear that the "train" was pulling out of the station either with him, or without him. However, those expecting an inclination towards giving soccer exposure on the Ten Network now taking shape are probably deluding themselves and there are a number of reasons for this.

First and foremost Frank Lowy is a businessman and a brilliant one at that.

He has already made it quite clear — and he didn't really have to — that the purchase of television interests was purely a business decision.

Soccer, or any other category of programming, will only make an appearance on his stations if such decision can be justified in an atmosphere of harsh business reality.

And if that wasn't enough of a reason, then the fact that Lowy has completely given soccer away in recent years, not even attending Hakoah games, is another pointer to his attitude in this matter.

The Westfield boss has much bigger fish to fry, as last week's events amply illustrated.

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Croatia, Olympic and Marconi for semis!

In one of the best matches to date, Melita Eagles subdued Sydney City Hakoah at St George Stadium on Sunday to top Group D and set up quarter-final clash with APIA in the 1987 State Bank Challenge Cup.

It was fierce, it was fast and it was entertaining and if Graeme Warne, the referee, lacked a bit of pace to keep up with proceedings nobody could complain. Hard as he tried, he just could not keep up with the pace of 22 players that battled through the hardest 90 minutes of Cup football so far this season.

In the end, Melita won a goal scored with Anthony Wellbourn and headed by Ray Farrugia, his best player.

It was a shame to see this youthful Hakoah outfit lose a place in the quarter-finals, but it certainly was no shame to lose to such a fine outfit like Melita Eagles.

APIA led Freshwater 3-0 then slumped and in the end almost lost a point to its unfashionable opponent.

APIA has one of the toughest defences around but Melita has an incredibly fast attack and this Sunday should see these two sides at their best with Dennis Hoggart's Melita Eagles holding a definite advantage in speed and fire power.

Sydney Olympic faces Blacktown in the late game at St George Stadium on Sunday and anything but a comfortable victory to Sydney Olympic would surprise.

Olympic has Dakos, Ratcliffe, Raskopoulos, Kalantzis, Kosmina, Soper, Katholos, Estavillo... almost a full book of internationals with Meier, Dragicevic, Hantzis, Patalis, Kotamandis all names that could walk into any NSL team tomorrow. That alone should be the deciding factor.

Les Scheinflug is well aware of the situation but his young Demons are not going to walk out of this match with their heads hanging low. Blacktown has not lost so far in the Cup and drew with Croatia at the Croatian Sports Centre.



State Bank Cup with ALEX VESIC

The Demons have one of the youngest and fastest teams in this competition and one of two slip-ups by Olympic could see the side that won the pre-season competition a few years ago in the semi-finals again.

Croatia will face Sutherland and Marconi will challenge St George in matches set for Saturday at Marconi.

Sutherland finished its qualifying run with six points, after disposing of Canterbury. Sutherland plays in a determined, fast and furious fashion. You never lose money in entertainment value if you watch this team going through its paces. Terry and Burrows, Meades and Harrington, Ilyewere Lerond and speedy Duncan are the men that will not send shivers down Croatia's spine but must, by the same token, be treated with respect.

Croatia is still an overwhelming favorite. Anything but a comfortable Croatian victory would be a great shock. Marconi is tipped to trouble St George at Marconi Stadium in the late match on Saturday night and I have no other choice but to agree with the tipsters. The Saints have hardly set the world on fire in their qualifying matches and must be considered lucky to still be in this tournament.

Let's look at last week's matches.

Blacktown 4 Macedonia 1

At Gabbie Stadium
Scorers: Sander 30th, 42nd, Thornthwaite 33rd, Van Blerk 85th (BC) Gardner 60th (WM).

Sydney Olympic watch out. The Demons are out to get you!

That was the very clear message from the Gabbie as Blacktown City demonstrated its speed and efficiency against Wollongong Macedonia in the last round of the qualifying

matches for the 1987 State Bank Challenge Cup.

With fullbacks Maier and Northman running at full stream down both flanks Blacktown surprised its southern visitors. Well known for its rock hard defence, Macedonia fell to bits midway through the first half with Adam Sandy grabbing the first and Brett Thornthwaite the second goal in the space of three minutes.

The game was over there and then, but just for good measure Sandy notched his second two minutes into the second period to make it 3-0 and put it beyond the reach of Macedonia.

Paul Giraldo pulled one back but Jason Van Blerk restored his side's three-goal lead with five minutes remaining.

Sutherland 3 Canterbury 1

At St George Stadium
Scorers: Harrington 30th, Hill 60th pen, Lerond 69th (S); Arambasic 21st (C).

"He is going to be one of the best strikers in Australia within a few years," said Domagoj Kapetanovic of Zlatko Krapanovic recently.

This 17-year-old was the player who sped away from the Sutherland defence to give Canterbury the lead after 21 minutes and give his side an unexpected chance to make it into the quarter-finals.

And while some Canterbury supporters still believed that their side could sneak into the quarter-finals, Sutherland came back through captain Mark Harrington. Steve Meades made the break on the right and crossed for Daryl Sharp who headed it on for Mark Harrington and the Sutherland captain struck home a volley from five metres for the equaliser.

Five minutes later, in the 35th, Duncan received a superb through ball from Lerond but his shot went wide.

Steve Meades fired in a number of shots. Konistis saved a couple in the first half, then repeated the dose against Meades in the 53rd and 55th minutes with saves which had the crowd on its feet.

However, it all failed as the Sharks pounced once again with the wind at their backs. Vandarakis handled on the line and despite some strong protests from Severi and Vankarakis a penalty was awarded. Craig Hill, the youngest striker in State League, took the shot with the ease of an experienced player planting the ball high into the roof of the net.

Andy Duncan sped away on the right with 11 minutes remaining to send in a low cross for Lerond to put the issue beyond doubt.

Ku-Ring-Gai 4 Manly Warr 1

At Cromer Park
Scorers: Sander 38th, 60th, Kevern 46th, Pearce 50th (K) Stuart 23rd (MV).

Hail Ku-Ring-Gai, the new champion of Sydney's soccer-starved north! Warringah Freshwater, Manly Warringah and Ku-Ring-Gai proudly represent the northern shores of Sydney in the NSW State League.

None of them qualified for the finals but Ku-Ring-Gai managed to get above the other two on the ladder in Group C after this 4-1 win over Manly at Cromer Park.

Paul Fagan and Cameron Pearce, Ku-Ring-Gai's new recruits from Queensland, did the damage, after Robby Stuart put Manly ahead midway through the first half.

Stuart took a corner with the wind blowing a gale. His cross into the middle of the penalty area was closer to the line than Lacey anticipated and finished under the crossbar before the young Ku-Ring-Gai keeper could react.

With Manly strong wind at its back, Manly looked in complete control and could have added a goal or two with an ounce of sharpness in its shooting.

Ku-Ring-Gai slowly fought its way back to be on level terms. Paul Fagan was at the end of a cross from the right hand side to make it 1-1 with two minutes remaining in this period.

It was all Kuringai in the second period and it was just a matter of by how many the Chasers would win. Craig Bass gave a hint of what was to happen with a fine header in the 42nd which just flashed wide.

Four minutes later, David Kevern combined well with Park Nile to beat the Manly keeper and give Kuringai the lead.

A fierce free kick by Cameron Pearce stunned Conradi in goal for Manly in the 50th. He dropped the ball over the line and it was 3-1.

Then in the 60th the Queensland combination of Pearce and Fagan struck again. A cross from Pearce and a touch from Fagan and the scoreline read 4-1.

APIA 3 Freshwater 2

At Cromer Park
Scorers: Dounis 31st, 52nd, Baran 34th (A), Corrigan 72nd, Holloway 73rd (A).

After scraping through against Manly Warringah to pinch a point in the dying minutes of the match, APIA had to struggle yet again, this time against an unfashionable Warringah Freshwater at Cromer Park.

Hilton Phillips was replaced due to injury in the 14th minute by Louis Dounis and the ex-Canterbury striker soon gave his side reason to smile. He sunk two goals past Bowman to help APIA take a commanding 3-0 lead. Janusz Baran scored the other.

With 28 minutes left it all looked safe for APIA.

Then came Freshwater Warringah with a determined late run. Dennis Corrigan and Mark Holloway in the space of two minutes managed to bridge the gap to one goal and suddenly the might of APIA looked very shaky indeed.

Rock Ilinden 1 Wollongong C1

At Gabbie Stadium
Scorers: Stevanovski 30th (WC), D Wilson 60th (RI).

This game only served as an indicator of the form of these sides before the start of the NSW State Bank League.

Wollongong City took the initiative early and had Ilinden on the ropes. Chances came and went, with Pat Brodnik missing quite a few, the woodwork also got in the way and players failed to find the net despite some gaping holes that were created by the visitors from the south coast.

Cross Stevanovski then tried a rade but misjudged and found the net in the 30th.

Ilinden tried harder during the second period and managed to hold its own with Darren Wilson, Genovese and Rias putting in a big effort. With 10 minutes to go, Darren Wilson produced one of the best diving headers seen in years to beat Young and make it 1-1.

Melita Eagles 2 Sydney Hakoah 1

At St George Stadium
Scorers: Saad 8th (SH), Foxman 53rd, Wellbourn 75th (ME).

In one of the toughest matches of the State Bank Challenge Cup so far, Melita Eagles defeated Sydney Hakoah with the winning goal arriving two minutes from time.

Abbas Saad, the young Soccer, gave Hakoah an early lead when he managed to beat the outside trap then lob Pupovac from 35 metres out. It was a superbly taken goal by the youngster who is intent on going places.

Ian Souness almost made it 2-0 in the 36th with a fierce drive which found Craig Williams on the line. Williams cleared and Melita survived.

A master stroke by coach Dennis Hoggart saw Melita come back into the match. He replaced one of his star midfielders, Andrew Callanan, with 17-year-old Richard Buchanan. He was on the park for just over 10 minutes and he made his presence felt. He intercepted the ball after some poor work between Hughes and Robertson to send it across the box for John Foxman to score.

Eddie Thompson introduced De Marigny and his move almost paid off immediately as De Marigny raced into the penalty area to slam a left footer which was well saved by Pupovac.

Then came an act which almost gave the game away to Melita. Ean Rodrigues clashed with Birol Serbas and Graeme Warne, the referee, had no hesitation in sending Rodrigues off.

Then came a delightful move by Farrugia, combining with Wellbourn to set up his new team mate with the chance which sealed the issue. Hughes came in, Wellbourn was cool under pressure to find an unguarded part of the net.

Newcastle 3 Uruguay 0

At Adamstown Oval
Scorers: Hastie o.g. 18th, Rowney 30th, 52nd.

Newcastle scored its first goals of the '87 season to take the points against an out-of-touch Uruguay.

Dale Rowney was Newcastle's hero with two well-taken goals. This first was a sizzler from just outside the penalty area. Rowney split the Uruguayan central defenders with a fine run before unleashing his drive to beat Rosano.

Some 10 minutes into the second half, Rowney sealed Newcastle's first win with yet another fine effort. Rosano threw the ball out to his full-back, Rowney dispossessed him then, from an angle, sent a fierce drive past the bewildered Rosano. The Uruguay goalkeeper expected a cross and was well beaten almost before the shot was taken.

It was Rowney who caused the small band of Newcastle followers to celebrate early in the match. He put pressure on Gary Hastie and the Uruguay defender, attempting to return to his keeper, sent in a crashing drive which eluded Rosano.

This own goal by Hastie was the tonic the young Newcastle players needed.

St George 0 Hakoah 2

At St George Stadium
Scorers: Parish 47th, 74th.

The Saints and Hakoah will have to improve by at least 75 per cent if either side is to be competitive in the West End National League. Their struggle for State Bank Cup points last week proved that.

Players struggled to produce any good football and spectators struggled to keep awake

BLACKTOWN CITY 4 (Sandy 30th, 42nd), Thornthwaite 33rd, Van Blerk 85th) WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA 1 (Gardner 60th) at the Gabbie. Crowd 600.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Watson 7, — Maier 8, Reynolds 7, Sterry 7, Nether 7, — Denyer 7, Kay 7, Eilam 7, — Van Blerk 7, Sandy 8, Thornthwaite 8.

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Terziowski 6, — Muhlbauer 6, Ruskin 7, Sweeney 6, Wright 6, — Dalkovski 5, Jiraa 5, Giraldo 8, — Tilt 5, Gardner 6, Barnt 5.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE 3 (Harrington 30th, Hill 60th pen, Lerond 69th) CANTERBURY 1 (Arambasic 21st) at St George Stadium. Referee: P. Serbas.

SUTHERLAND: Burroughs 7, — Nelson 6, Galt (Burrows 53rd), Terry 7, Sellar 7, — Cox 6 (Tasker 63rd), Meades 8, Harrington 7, Lerond 7, — Duncan 7, Sharp 6.

CANTERBURY: Konistis 8, — Mantas 5, Vandarakis 6, Radman 8, Severi 6, — Nicolopolous 5, Antonopoulos 6, Petas 6, Arambasic 6, Kalogaras.

MANLY WARRINGAH 1 (Stuart 23rd) KU-RING-GAI 4 (Fagan 38th, 60th, Kevern 46th, Pearce 50th) at Cromer Park.

MANLY: Conradi 5, — Dennis 6, Mangan 7, Pearce 7, A. Williamson 6, Harrington 5, Jurgens 6, Stuart 6, — Lester 6, Camarosi 5 (47th), Mathey 5, Butler 6 (40th Carrick 6).

KU-RING-GAI: Lacey 6, — Kevern 7, Pepper 6, Watson 7, Pearce 6 (64th), Camburn, — Ouligley 7, Nile 7, Sutherland 7, Bennett 6, — Bass 6 (65th), Forquah 7, Fagan 7.

APIA LEICHHARDT 3 (Dounis 31st, 52nd, Baran 34th) WARRINGAH FRESHWATER 2 (Corrigan 72nd, Holloway 73rd) at Cromer Park.

APIA: Pezzano 8, — Brady 7, Lorens 7, Bertogno 7, Brown 7, — Baran 8, Trendenick 6, Zaimi 6, — R. Brown 6, Phillips (14th Dounis 7), Butler 6.

FRESHWATER: Bowman 6, — Gillan 6, Barry 7, Garrett 6, Dean 6, — Tkachuk 5, Davies 6, Duckling 7, Corrigan 7, — Holloway 7, Speranza 6.

MELITA EAGLES 2 (Foxman 53rd, Wellbourn 75th) SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH 1 (Saad 8th) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 1960. Referee: G. Warne.

MELITA: Pupovac 8, — Williams 8, Wilson 8, Lomas (Cabasi 25th), — Griffiths 8, — Callanan 6 (Buchanan 41st-7), Farrugia 8, Wellbourn 7, Farnsworth 7, — Foxman 7, Serbas 6.

HAKOAH: Hughes 7, — Rodrigues 6 (sent off 55th), Robertson 7, O'Connor 7, — Hooker 6, — Patterson 7, Sander 7, McCulloch 6, Campbell 6 (De Marigny 53rd), — Saad 8, Parish 6 (Barnes 68th).

ROCKDALE ILINDEN 1 (D. Wilson 60th) WOLLONGONG CITY 1 (Stevanovski 30th) at Adamstown Oval. Crowd: 450. Referee: G. Warne.

ROCKDALE: Zic 7, — Miskovic 6, Plovski 6, G. Wilson 6, Rodas 7, — D. Wilson 8, Nastoski 6, Nikolovski 5 (Karantliovski 60th), Bedoni 6, Genovese 6, — Sprok 6.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Young 7, — Skeen 7, Dmeritz 7, Easthorpe 6, Morlando 6, — Cokely 6, Stevanovski 6, Ainsworth 6, Piel 7, — Brodnik 7, Giraldo 8.

ST GEORGE SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH 2 (Parish 47th, 74th) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 2,050. Referee: G. Power.

ST GEORGE: Gibson 6, — Hughes 5, Owens 7, O'Shea 6, Slavski 7, — Kossias 6 (Finlay 41st), — Patterson 7, Sander 7, McCulloch 6, Campbell 6 (De Marigny 53rd), — Saad 8, Parish 6 (Barnes 68th).

URUGUAY 1 (Cuba 75th pen) MELITA EAGLES 1 (Foxman 32nd) at St George Stadium. Referee: McConnell 6.

URUGUAY: Rosano 7, — Hastie 6, Nicholson 6, Gresham 6 (74th), O'Donnell 8, — Mosquero 7, Peulic (Morson 16th), Tomasiach 7, — Genc 7, Wilk 5 (Lefevre 65th), Cuba 8.

MELITA EAGLES: Pupovac 9, — Cabasi 5, Lomas 6, Wellbourn 6, Williams 7, — Farnsworth 5 (Farrugia 44th), Callanan 7, Wilson 6, — Foxman 6 (Buchanan 64th), Datan 5, Serbas 5.

NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD 3 (Hastie o.g. 18th, Rowney 30th, 52nd) URUGUAY 0 at Adamstown Oval. Crowd: 450. Referee: J. Reeves 7.

NEWCASTLE: Grills 8, — Roberts 6, Milosevic 8, Harrison 7, Cavallaro 7, — Haba 8, Nicholson 6, Gresham 6 (74th), Bennett, — Gascoine 7, Rowney 9, Penfold 6.

URUGUAY: Rosano 6, — Hastie 6, Woods 7, Kralovic 6, O'Donnell 7, — Mosquero 5, Tomasiach 6, Wilk 5 (Benitez 20th), — Morson 5 (Le Fave 41st), Cuba 6, Genc 7.

CANTERRA 3 (Bryant penalty, A. Reis, Arthur own goal) INTER MONARRO 1 (Fernandez penalty) at Bruce Stadium.

CANTERRA: Economopoulos, Weidner 6, (Cerro H 1), — Dinn, Bryant, — Mazis, Germani, Murray, — R. Juma, A. Reis, Maric, — Inter MONARRO: Notaras, — Arthur (Trikopoulos 41st), Ttilias, Gargita, — Witheer, — Borella, Ambrosio, Martiniello, Cicco, — Fiorese, — Sander 7.

Group A results: Croatia-Blacktown 0-0, Croatia-Woll. Macedonia 3-1, Croatia-Woll. City 2-0, Blacktown-Woll. City 1-1, Blacktown-Rockdale Ilinden 1-0, Blacktown-Woll. Macedonia 4-1, Woll. City-Woll. Macedonia 3-0, Woll. City-Rock. Ilinden 1-1, Rock. Ilinden-Macedonia 1-0.

Final standings	F	A	Pt
Croatia	8	7	14
Blacktown	5	2	6
Woll. City	5	4	4
Rock. Ilinden	2	5	3
Woll. Maced.	2	11	0

Group B results: Olympic-Sutherland 0-0, Olympic-Canterbury 10-0, Olympic-Canberra City 3-1, Sutherland-Canberra City 2-0, Sutherland-Inter Monaro 2-2, Canterbury-Canberra City 2-0, Canterbury-Inter Monaro 0-0, Canberra City-Inter Monaro 3-1.

Final standings	F	A	Pt
Syd. Olympic	16	1	7
Sutherland	7	3	6
Canterbury	3	13	3
Inter Monaro	2	5	2
Canberra	1	7	0

Group C results: Melita Eagles-Sutherland 4-0, Melita Eagles-St George 2-1, Melita Eagles-Uruguay 1-1, Melita Eagles-Hakoah 2-1, St George-Uruguay 3-0, St George-Newcastle 2-0, St George-Hakoah 0-2, Hakoah-Newcastle 3-0, Hakoah-Uruguay 1-2, Newcastle-Uruguay 3-0.

Final standings	F	A	Pt
Melita Eagles	11	3	7
St. George	11	2	4
Hakoah	7	7	2
Uruguay	2	7	2
Newcastle	3	16	2

Group D results: APIA-Ku-Ring-Gai 3-0, APIA-Marconi 2-2, APIA-Manly 2-2, APIA-Freshwater 3-2, Marconi-Manly 3-1, Marconi-Freshwater 6-1, Marconi-Ku-Ring-Gai 4-0, Manly-Freshwater 1-1, Manly-Ku-Ring-Gai 1-4, Freshwater-Ku-Ring-Gai 1-1.

Final standings	F	A	Pt
APIA	10	6	6
Ku-Ring-Gai	5	9	3
Manly Warr.	5	10	2
Freshwater	5	11	2

planned short passing game. Melita added to its problems by leaving out Greg Brown and Billy Griffiths, two key players in this Melita outfit.

Playing fairly square at the back Melita failed to stop the attacking raids of Uruguay with its offside trap and almost paid dearly for its mistakes. Fraser Cuba eluded the offside trap in the 37th, rounded the goalkeeper then had his shot saved on the line by the hand of Tony Cabasi. Mosquero took the resultant penalty but Dragan Pupovac made a superb save.

Dragan Pupovac made yet another great save in the 57th this time at the feet of Cuba who had escaped the offside trap again.

Mosquero was brought down in the 55th inside the area, but the referee waved play on. Mosquero was upset about the decision and remonstrated with the referee. Mr McConnell flashed a yellow card and the unfortunate Uruguay midfielder looked most displeased indeed.

Then came another great save by Pupovac from Scott O'Donnell with nine minutes remaining. Alas, when all looked lost for Uruguay, Graham Lomas handled Cuba scored from the resultant penalty to equalise.



STATE BANK CHALLENGE CUP

— QUARTER-FINALS —

Saturday, 22 February
MARCONI STADIUM

6.00pm:
CROATIA — SUTHERLAND
8.00pm:
MARCONI — ST GEORGE

Sunday 23 February
ST GEORGE STADIUM

6.00pm:
SYDNEY OLYMPIC —
BLACKTOWN CITY
8.00pm:
A.P.I.A. — MELITA EAGLES

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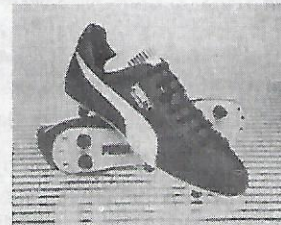
5 MARADONA 10



6 SPIRIT

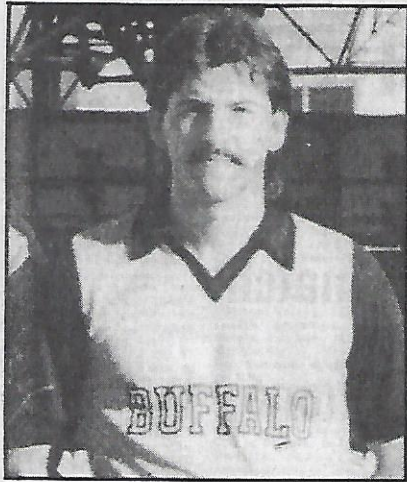


7 SUPER BOOT



8 DERBY

KETSAKIDS!



● Chris Ketsakidis — his goal broke the deadlock for Heidelberg against JUST.

**Heidelberg 1
Foot JUST 0**
Scorer: Ketsakidis 63rd.

JUST can well consider itself unlucky to have been bundled out of contention so early in this year's Buffalo Cup after its defeat on Saturday night at the hands of a talented Heidelberg line-up.

The team has improved markedly in each game this season and with Tyrone James added to the defence and coach Dragoslav Sekularac back at the helm, JUST was no pushover for a Heidelberg side which proved its calibre the previous week in a hard fought game against Hellas.

In a close match with plenty of chances, it was Heidelberg's Chris Ketsakidis who broke the deadlock in the 63rd minute when he met a free-kick from Peter Tolakis and drilled it past JUST goalie Zoran Vlainic.

Vlainic had single-handedly denied Heidelberg with a

**Man of
the match:
ZORAN VLAJNIC
(JUST)**

string of memorable saves starting in the 9th minute with a one-hander, palming a vicious Claude Lucchesi header just wide of the post in a manner reminiscent of Gordon Banks' save from Pete in the 1970 World Cup.

Laurie McKinna took no time to find his place in the Heidelberg scheme of things, and looked very comfortable next to Kiwi Andy Deeley.

John Anastasiadis also displayed some deft touches particularly a back-heel early in the game which unfortunately surprised his team-mates as much as his marker and no-one was on hand to take advantage of it.

Ernie Tapai was a dynamo for JUST in a midfield which Sekularac had assembled without Minh Tri Vo, the star of JUST's last outing.

James looked confident and his strong tackling and intelligent passing sent JUST forward on a number of occasions.

But ultimately it was a game which a JUST team still finding its feet this year could not afford to lose, even by the narrowest of margins, and the team will have to content itself with watching the finals of the Buffalo Cup from the sidelines.

— JOHN MANGAN

Forget about offside

**Man of
the match:
MARK BROWN
(Croydon)**

**Green Gully 1
Croydon 0**
Scorer: Ward 5th.

"They (Croydon) should have stuffed us in the first half but we came back in the second half. That was them at their best and us at our worst but we got the result, which is a sign of a good team," said Green Gully coach Gus Macleod after this match.

Macleod was realistic enough to admit that Croydon should have won.

Croydon coach Jim Tansey agreed but while most observers already are making Gully favorite for the State League title, Tansey thinks Croydon has just as much chance of winning the championship.

"Our lads were more confident about tackling Gully in the league after this game than they were before the match. They know now that Gully's nothing special," said Tansey.

It was a soft goal that sunk Croydon. How Danny Ward could be unmarked so close to the Croydon goal must be a worry for Tansey. Just five minutes had gone when Ward headed in a Stuart Cannell cross that should have been attacked by Croydon goalkeeper Keith Waterman.

Shortly after, Graham French, who had a fine game, struck the ball wide from the left of the Gully area. He should at least have been on target.

Then came the first of five offside incidents where play was waved on. It was really remarkable. Players weren't just barely offside. I'm talking of metres offside, yet the linesman wasn't flagging and referee Andy Frangou, probably heeding the fellow official, kept letting play continue.

Mark Brown, doing a tremendous man-marking job on Scott Fraser, went for the ball in the air then lobbed it forward to French in the 27th minute. French was offside. Clearly, he headed the ball to team mate David Brogan, also clearly offside, and Brogan volleyed over the bar. Had he scored the goal would have stood.

Then we really would have had a story to tell for Macleod who had said he was coming out of his ears and it wouldn't have come from one of those cigars he's becoming renowned for puffing on either.

Five minutes later Brogan, again clearly offside, broke through only to lob the ball over the advancing Lou Denys and wide of the far post.

Just before half time, Gully's new Scottish recruit Joe O'Neil, who had the Stranraer captain, was scythed down by Jimmy Nelson. The Croydon midfielder was booked and O'Donnell had to be replaced during the interval due to suspected ligament damage.

The second half wasn't anything to write home about. Not the action out on the field anyway. But play was the ninety going on in the Press box.

It's your turn for the whisky this week, Schwabie.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

BUFFALO CUP

GREEN GULLY 1 (Ward 5th) CROYDON 0 at Olympic Park, last Wednesday night. Crowd: about 500. Referee: Andy Frangou 2. Cautions: J. Nelson (C).

GREEN GULLY: Dennis 7, McInnes 7, Cannell 7, Grimaud 6, Douglas 7 — Fraser 5, Dugley 5, O'Donnell 6 (in), Deakin H T 5, Carter 5 — Ward 6, Cumming 6, Coach: Gus Macleod.

CROYDON: Waterman 6 — Marshall 6 (in), Livingstone 52nd, Brack 7, O'Reilly 7, Brown 6 — McDonald 6, Besch 6, J. Nelson 7 — Cooper 6, Brogan 6, French 8, Coach: Jim Tansey.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 1 (Brown 62nd) ST ALBANS DINAMO 0 at Olympic Park, last Wednesday night. Crowd: about 500 (double header). Referee: John Fraser 6. Cautions: Duzel (Dinamo).

JUVENTUS: Marrama 7 — Lewis 7, Brown 6, Durakovic 6, Incantalupo 7 — Cullen 6, Gribic 6, Fabrizio 7, Patterson 6 — Lane 5, Zinn 6, Coach: Len McKendry.

ST ALBANS DINAMO: Grigic 7 — Wilson 5, Krajacic 7, Brkijacic 7, Ramjak 6 — Culina 5, Duzel 7, Batinovic 5, Rastocic 7 — Runje 7, Morovic 6, Coach: Tony Vrzina.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 6 (Egan 16th, 60th, Blair 18th, Wright 34th, Stevenson 53rd, Kalogeros 58th) BOX HILL 0 at Olympic Park, last Friday night. Crowd: about 3,500. Referee: Colin Ellis 3.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Laumets 5 — Russell 7, Blair 6, Anazakis 7, Mihos 6 — Kalogeros 7, Miranda 6, Wade 7, Craine 8 (in), Andriotis 61st — Egan 7, Wright 6 (Stevenson 45th), Coach: Brian Garvey.

BOX HILL: McKinlay 5 — McPhoe 3, McMillan 4, Davidson 4, Brimmer 3 — Mazzagatti 5 (J. Mori 45th), Burton 5, Hennessy 5, White 4 — Griffin 5, D. Mori 6, Coach: George Murray.

MELBOURNE CROATIA 0 GEORGE CROSS 0 at Olympic Park last Friday night. Crowd: about 2,000. Referee: Stuart Mellings 5.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Runje 7 — McIntosh 6, Dunn 7, Hannah 6 — Talajic 8, Campbell 6, MacLean 6, Redmond 5 — Humble 7, Lewis 7, Lemezie 6 (Biskic 53rd), Coach: Terry Hennessy.

GEORGE CROSS: Keogh 7 — Marsh 6, Patton 6, Richardson 6, Taylor 6 — Mitten 5, MacLaren 6 (Markovski 52nd), Innes 7, Bain 5 — Gilder 7, Edwards 6 (Trimball 52nd), Coach: John Gardiner.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 4 (van Egmond 21st, 37th, 63rd, Sliwaks 8th) FRANKSTON PINES 2 (Miller 40th, Ross 57th) at Olympic Park last Saturday night. Crowd: about 3,000. Referee: Rudi Simonis 6. Cautions: Dick (FP).

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Lee 6 — McLennan 6, Opatinis 6 (Kondakis 68th), Dobson 6, Jackson 6 (Piculovski 67th) — Sliwaks 7 (Ulojevski 53rd), Roodhouse 6, van Egmond 8, Ilioseki 6 — Cole 7, Gojovic 7, Coach: Billy Murray.

FRANKSTON PINES: Boland 7 — Cumming 5, Bozic 6, Parks 6 — Watson 6, Cullen 5 (Henry 67th), Ross 7 (Richardson 67th), Ferris 6, Miller 7 — Dick 8, Armstrong 6, Coach: Danny McMinnie.

HEIDELBERG 1 (Ketsakidis 63rd) FOOTSCRAY JUST 0 at Olympic Park last Saturday night. Referee: Barry Grant 7. Cautions: Deeley (H). Crowd: about 3,000.

HEIDELBERG: Olver 6 — Pappas 7, Ketsakidis 7, Selemidis 7, Marlet 6 — Mitten 5, Luchiesi 7, Tsalikis 7 — McKinna 8, Anastasiadis 7 (Brown 62nd), Deeley 7, Coach: Roy MacLaren.

FOOTSCRAY JUST: Vlainic 6 — Curovic 7, Barjaktarevic 6, Karic 6, Petrovski 7 — Papic 7, James 7, Milosevic 6 (H.T. Burlik 6) — Lazopoulos 6, Spink 6, Lujic 7, Coach: Dragoslav Sekularac.

**B Juventus 1
St A Dinamo 0**
Scorer: Brown 62nd.

Juventus fans may well scratch their heads in bewilderment following their team's freakish win last Wednesday night.

After two Buffalo Cup ties against NSL opposition, playing some great football and still losing, when it came to tackling State League team Dinamo everything fell in a heap.

But Juventus still won the game.

Tony Vrzina's Dinamo team just wouldn't let Juventus settle down and wouldn't give Juventus' players the time to put their subtle skills to good use. Rob Krajacic and Zdenko Brkijacic combined well at the back for Dinamo clamping down on Juventus' advances.

It was big Brian Brown though who scored the goal which gave Juventus its first Buffalo Cup points for the season, when he was there to knock in a Scott Patterson corner.

For all its efforts, Dinamo could not match that goal. Goran Runje looked dangerous in the 17th minute when he made space to hit a shot from outside the box and a couple of minutes later it took a good tackle by Mehmet Durakovic to stop him as he again moved goalward.

Dennis Morovic also had a fine chance when just a minute

**Man of
the match:
PETER LEWIS
(Juventus)**

from time he latched onto a poor back-pass, but fortunately for Juventus, his shot went wide.

The best performances in the Juventus team came from the backmen. Fabio Incantalupo and Peter Lewis both made some crucial tackles while in the midfield Fabrizio established himself with some good passing and a fierce volley from well outside the area in the 56th minute which brought gasps of amazement and applause from the 500-strong crowd in attendance.

A special mention must go to both goalkeepers. Dinamo's Mate Grigic made a spectacular save early on in the game when Robbie Cullen put Patterson through on the left-hand side. Patterson shot but Grigic was able to get a hand to the ball and deflect it over the crossbar.

Grigic also did well to soak up the pressure when, in the middle of the first half, Juventus won four corner-kicks in quick succession.

Pat Marrama made the save of the match though for Juventus when Runje came powering through the middle in the 66th minute and Marrama dived at his feet to thwart the attack.

— JOHN MANGAN



● Brian Brown



● Scott Patterson

Was it worth the effort?

**Man of
the match:
MARK TALAJIC
(Croatia)**

**Croatia 0
George Cross 0**
In all likelihood Melbourne Croatia and

George Cross, the two teams topping Group A approached this game looking for victory. But in the end it just didn't seem worth the effort.

In the previous game Hellas had casually shrugged off the 30 degree plus heat to bang in six goals but the temperature seemed to take the sting out of both the Croatia and George Cross attackers.

As it was, Croatia pre-empted the final whistle by spending the last minute of the game knocking the ball between the back three while the George Cross forwards stood near the half-way line watching them on the off-chance that they might decide to kick the ball up-field.

In spite of the disappointing conclusion and the goalless result the game was not without its chances.

The first clear-cut chance of the game fell to Croatia's Paul Lewis in the 15th minute when he came across goal from the left and cut back a shot which George Cross keeper Sean Keogh did well to hold.

Ten minutes later, Keogh had to race outside his area to deny Lewis a chance to break through.

And Lewis was again in the action when Andy Humble sent Mark Talajic wide on the right for Croatia with a lovely ball. Humble missed Talajic's cross and Lewis could only blast it wide.

For George Cross, Carl Gilder and Andy Edwards were making chances.

A minute before half-time Edwards was the victim of a cynical tackle by George Hannah as he made space on the right wing.

He also hit a shot that only just went over the bar shortly before coach John Gardiner substituted him.

Despite the introduction of forwards John Markovski and Paul Trimballi to the George Cross attack and the gritty determination of Gilder, neither Cross nor Croatia could seem to beat the heat and get the ball in the back of the net.

— JOHN MANGAN

Falcons no to AIS

Morwell Falcons announced at the State League Management Meeting last week that they would definitely not be travelling to Canberra to play against the Australian Institute of Sport team which is entered in the competition for the first time.

The AIS was accepted into the league on the understanding that teams would have the option whether to play their games against the AIS in Canberra or in Melbourne.

Only four clubs have yet to decide. The other

Buffalo State League clubs, among them Green Gully, Croydon City, St Albans Dinamo and Springvale, have all said they will make the trip.

Three of the undecided clubs are Northcote, Polonia and Western Suburbs.

The AIS's first game is against Springvale on March 21. Coach Ron Smith, chief coaching advisor Tony Franken has been talking to potential sponsors but are still a couple of weeks from announcing anything. The AIS plans to offer prize money for each game played at the Bruce Stadium in Canberra.

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By
JOHN MANGAN

Footscray JUST, languishing at the bottom of Group B in the Buffalo Cup, has a chance to salvage some pride from its game on Saturday night against second placed Green Gully.

Gus Macleod has guided his team to second place on the table behind South Melbourne Hellas with wins over State League rivals Box Hill and Croydon.

Both those teams have found the going difficult in the Buffalo Cup but JUST which is propping up the group should provide more competition for the Green Gully team which has been in good form so far.

JUST has improved with each game but coach Dragoslav Sekularac has been with his squad for little over a week and the man who won the 1986 NSL Coach of the Year award still has some fine tuning to complete.

One question arising from last week's game against Heidelberg is, what does Sekularac intend to do with Vietnamese international Minh Tri Vo who JUST bought over the close season following his displays in the Qantas World Cup competition?

Minh is not short on skill, as he has demonstrated, but his fitness has cut his appearances short in JUST's first two matches this year. Last week in his first game under Sekularac, Minh didn't even get a run so this Saturday's match could give JUST fans an indication of the team's plans with its new signing.

Gully is by far the most convincing of the State League teams in the Cup and has shown that it is determined to pick up where it left off last year when it won the Dockerty Cup. Nevertheless, JUST should have too much power for Macleod's men and can use this game to climb off the bottom of the Group B table.

Box Hill, hit for six without reply by South Melbourne Hellas last Saturday night, has another tough match ahead of it, this time against Hellas's arch-rival Heidelberg tonight (Wednesday) at Olympic Park.

Heidelberg is looking good up front at the moment with the inclusion of new signing Laurie McKinna. He, Andy Deeley and John Anastasiadis have all been dangerous in front of goal and should be too much for George Murray's Box Hill team.

However, Box Hill will not be quite as easy to get round this time. I expect the Hillmen to tighten up in the defence and they should make the Berbers work hard for their goals.

The second game of the evening brings together George Cross and a Frankston Pines team which gave Preston Makedonia quite a run for their money in the second half of last Saturday's game.

John Gardiner's George Cross team promises much particularly in attack but it failed to deliver in the energy-sapping heat at Olympic Park last Friday night in the game against Melbourne Croatia. Striker Carl Gilder's form was an encouraging sign but he was held out of the game by a 3-0 defeat against Makedonia to 3-2, and for a while there, the NSL team's defence was looking terribly shaky. If



● Charlie Egan of Juventus who he steadies to win this match 6-0

Pines can maintain that se game they will be a hand especially if Striker Ally I going. Craig Miller on the greatest danger-man at

Still, Cross has been able to have countered so far subdue Pines forwards and Croydon's goalkeeper is looking forward to when his State League or South Melbourne Hellas a with Box Hill last Friday night.

Hellas hasn't put a fool tournament and they will do the same sort of treat out to Box Hill.

Charlie Egan and Danny amongst the Buffalo Cup's and three goals respectively to bag a few more, but keep an eye on Paul Wade coming forward from mid but was carried off injury Friday night's game.

Croydon's Graham Fre score against his old club game in which he is going of opportunities.

The second game on F bourne Croatia against Tony Vrzina's Dinamo team beat Juventus in their last Croatia has got the score

2 DETAILS PLAYER OF THE SERIES

delberg's Three Selemidis was joined at the top of the Player of the series table by St Albans Dinamo defender Rob Krajacic who earned a run three points in his team's game against Juventus last Sunday, and Nick van Egmond who scored a hat-trick for Preston donia on the weekend. These three players are on six points.

panel of soccer writers which judges the award also rated Mark c's performance highly in Croatia's game against George Cross to m into fourth place on five and a half points. The votes for this round as follows:

en Gully: Croydon City: 3 — Douglas (GG); 2 — Brown M. (CC); 1 nnell (GG).

entus v St Albans Dinamo: 3 — Krajacic (St A.D.); 2 — Duzel (St .05 — Lewis (J), Rastocic (St A.D.).

th Melbourne Hellas v Box Hill: 3 — Crainie (SM-H); 2 — Egan D; 1 — Kalogeros (SM-H).

orge Cross v Melbourne Croatia: Talajic (MC); 2 — Gilder (GC); 1 — bell (MC).

ston Makedonia v Frankston Pines: 3 — Van Egmond (PM); 2 — s (PM); 2 — Miller (FP).

delberg v Footscray JUST: 3 — Vlatjic (JUST); 1.5 — Ketsakidis Papal (JUST).

iding vote-getters: — Krajacic (St A.D.), Selemidis (H), Van Egmond (PM); 5.5 — Talajic ; 5 — Brown M. (CC), Crainie (SM-H); 4 — Silvkas (PM), Egan (SM-inni (BJ).

Group A standings

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
akedonia	2	1	0	6	2	5
Croatia	2	1	0	3	0	5
ge Cross	1	2	0	3	1	4
entus	1	0	2	2	4	2
k.Pines	0	1	2	2	6	1
Dinamo	0	1	2	0	3	1

Group B standings

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Hellas	3	0	0	11	1	6
n Gully	2	0	1	3	1	4
delberg	2	0	1	3	2	4
Hill	1	0	2	1	8	2
don	0	1	2	1	3	1
s. JUST	0	1	2	1	5	1

g JUST n Gully



will be keen to add to his goal tally against Croydon. ot with Box Hill goalie McKinlay closing in. Hellas Croydon has a huge task ahead of it. Picture: LES SHORROCK.

form in tonight's or George Cross, can get his game 3 though is Pines ment. contain every side should be able to ke the points. Waterman won't ay night. That's omes up against e way they dealt ght would make

ing so far in this ning to give Croy- which they dealt

ight are up there scorers with four 'ey'll be looking ill also have to Richard Miranda at form last week d is in doubt for

will be keen to s but this is not a t a great number y night pits Mel- Albans Dinamo, as unlucky not to ame and though the board so far

In this year's Buffalo Cup, it would only take a bit of luck to turn this game Dinamo's way. Ivan Duzel is in good form for Dinamo in the middle of the park and Rob Krajacic has been impressive in the back-line.

A man the St. Albans Dinamo defence has to cut out is Paul Lewis who has scored all three of Croatia's goals in this year's Buffalo Cup campaign. Midfielder Mark Talajic has been the team's star performer however and his long throws have caused no end of problems for opposition defences.

The second game on Saturday night is between Preston Makedonia — the new glamor team of Group A, after its 4-2 victory over Frankston Pines which took it to the top of the group standings — and Brunswick United Juventus, which was lucky to notch up its first win in the competition last week with a victory over St. Albans Dinamo.

Juventus coach Len McKendry has plenty of options in midfield and with new signing Luciano Fabrizio looking useful, he will be hoping that his team can keep up the good work, but this time play a bit more convincingly.

Though it was Nick van Egmond who got the swag of goals, Steve Gojevic and George Silvkas were also dangerous and with their confidence running high will be difficult to stop.

Makedonia should consolidate its position at the top of the group and cut short Juventus's revival in the competition. Bill Murray's team just has to make sure that it doesn't suffer the lapse in concentration that was almost its undoing last week against Pines.

Danny Crainie carried off, easy win for Hellas

SM-Hellas 6 Box Hill 0

Scorers: Egan 16th, 60th, Blair 15th, Wright 34th, Stevenson 53rd, Kalogeros 58th.

This was merely a training run for Hellas but a costly one as star midfielder Danny Crainie had to be carried off in the second half after a clash with Box Hill right back Gary McPhee.

Crainie and McPhee lay on the pitch motionless as play continued. McPhee was able to resume after treatment, which was just as well for Box Hill which had only one reserve and already had used him. Crainie wasn't as fortunate as McPhee and was carried to the dressing room.

It would be easy to think that either Box Hill doesn't care much about the Buffalo Cup or it lacks players. Both may be accurate assessments. Joe Mori was the Hillmen's sole substitute and had come on for Andrew Mazzagatti in the 45th minute. Had McPhee been unable to continue after his collision with Crainie later in the game, Box Hill would have faced the rather embarrassing prospect of having to play with 10 men for the remainder of the contest.

Not that the word "contest" was applicable after Charlie Egan opened the scoring in the 16th minute.

But Box Hill could have been 2-0 up after just six minutes!

In the second minute Damien Mori, who never gave up and deserves credit for running himself into the ground even when the match was well and truly out of the Hillmen's reach, broke through only to strike the ball straight to Peter Laumets.

Man of the match:
RICHARD MIRANDA
(SM-Hellas)

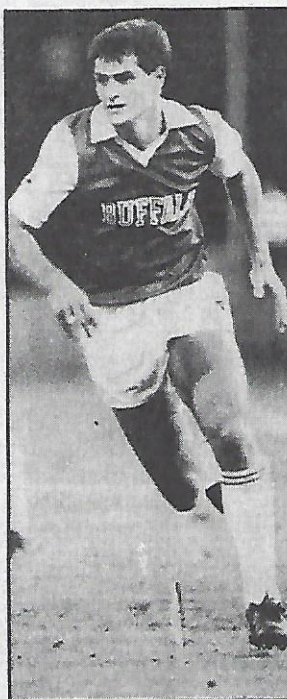
Four minutes later Mazzagatti sent Damien Mori clear on the right. Mori's far post cross was headed square by Barry Burton and Mazzagatti's first time shot struck a defender, luckily for Hellas.

The goal that started the avalanche came when the Hillmen failed to clear effectively following a long throw-in. Egan, the master opportunist, was on hand to hammer it home on the turn from just six metres.

Two minutes later it was 2-0. Bobby Russell was awarded a free kick by referee Colin Ellis that Russell shouldn't have won. Crainie sent the ball low to the far post and the incoming Paul Wade missed with what should have been a simple tap-in. But Steve Blair didn't.

One minute before the interval, Egan easily went past Steve Brimmer near the back-line on the right. Egan cut the ball back to the near post and Danny Wright knocked it home from four metres.

In the 44th minute, young Damien Mori turned well past Manny Anezakis who shot out an arm and blatantly pushed Mori in the chest. Referee Ellis was 10 metres away yet waved play on. Within seconds, Ellis erred again when George Kalogeros was flattened inside the Box Hill area. Again Ellis was well positioned. Again Ellis



Richard Miranda — his outstanding midfield play has taken Hellas to a clear victory over Box Hill, but carried off with an injury.



Danny Crainie — brilliant in Hellas's 6-0 victory over Box Hill, but carried off with an injury.

waved play on. It was a definite penalty.

But it didn't bother Hellas. Stuart Stevenson replaced Wright in the 45th minute and scored the best goal of the game in the 53rd minute. Richard Miranda, in fine form in the Buffalo Cup, played a great ball to Crainie on the left.

Crainie's far post cross was measured to the inch. It was met by a tremendous Stevenson leap and a header that was superbly directed and timed to make it 4-0.

Five minutes later Kalogeros stroled past a few defenders and Box Hill goalie John McKinlay and casually slammed the ball into the unguarded goal to make it 5-0. Egan completed the scoreline in the 60th minute thanks

to a delightfully weighted and delicately curved through ball from Crainie. Egan rounded McKinlay and tapped the ball into goal.

Box Hill had been made to look very ordinary. Maybe the six players who warmed up in 38 degrees celsius 20 minutes before the match were puffed out when the real action began.

— CRAIG MAC KENZIE

HAT-TRICK FOR VAN EGMOND

Makedonia 4 Frank. Pines 2

Scorers: van Egmond 21st, 37th, 63rd, Silkas 8th (PM); Miller 40th, Ross 57th (FP).

Makedonia raced to the top of Group A thanks to a hat-trick from blond striker Nick van Egmond.

Van Egmond was in scintillating form as was his teammate George Silvkas who netted Makedonia's other goal.

But even though Preston led all day, its grip on the game was severely shaken early in the second half when goals

Man of the match:
NICK VAN EGMOND
(Makedonia)

from Craig Miller and Jimmy Ross converted a solid 3-0 lead to a suddenly uncertain 3-2 advantage.

Silvkas got Makedonia's first goal pushing the ball under Pine's goalkeeper Dennis Boland as it ran loose in the penalty area.

From then on though it was all van Egmond for Billy Murray's Makedonia.

In the 21st minute, Cole knocked the ball in from the right for van Egmond to hit on the turn and in the first minute of the second half he used his head to put a Steve Gojevic corner in the back of the net.

Pines, bolstered by the return of Victorian Rothmans Medal winning striker Ally Dick, were down but not out.

A lethal ball from Ross went right across the face of Makedonia's goal but Miller was there on the far side to steer it back into the net from the most acute of angles.

Suddenly Pines were back in the match when Richie Armstrong struggled to control the ball put managed then to centre it to Ross who converted from close range.

Van Egmond though saved

— JOHN MANGAN

1987 GORBALS CUP

Former Soccercoo and current chairman of the VSF, Jack Reilly, will be presenting the trophies at this year's Gorbals Cup competition on Sunday.

The Gorbals Cup which is in its third year is run by Lyndale at the Barry Powell Reserve and is an all-day round-robin competition culminating in the final kicking off at 5pm.

The tournament is being sponsored by Cosmos Indoor Soccer Centres and Blic Homes and musical entertainment will be provided by Irish folk band Tara.

The teams competing are Lyndale, Dingley, Cranbourne, Melbourne Croatia Select, Dundee Select.



Nick van Egmond — Makedonia's hat-trick hero was just too sharp for Pines.

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In brief

● Melbourne-Hungaria seems to have abandoned plans to amalgamate with Brighton.

Melbourne seems certain to lose most of last year's first team squad and just 13 players attended a training session last week.

The session was held by Robert Morrey and Lou Theodosopoulos but both players are likely to join other clubs this year. Caulfield is keen to sign Morrey while Theodosopoulos will join either Footscray JUST or Green Gully.

● A match between a world all-star side and a team selected from the English league will head the centenary celebrations of the world's oldest soccer league next season.

The match is planned for Wembley on August 8, with the world side being managed by Terry Venables, the Englishman in charge of Spanish league leader Barcelona.

That game will be followed in November by a challenge match between this season's English league and Scottish league champions.

Then, on April 16 and 17 next year, Wembley will stage a six-a-side knockout competition involving all 92 English League clubs.

Finally, at the end of the season, there will be a tournament for the Centenary Trophy involving the leading eight clubs in Division One at Aston Villa, in recognition of Villa being among the League's pioneers.

● Two Victorian girls have been selected in the Australian Women's youth team which is travelling to America to compete in the Dallas Cup International Tournament in April.

Evans, Edmondson and Greechan on the move

Both girls, Denise Wright and Lee-Anne Hamilton, play for Greensborough and are studying at HSC level this year.

This will be the first time that the youth team has played in an international competition and to finance it the Australian Women's Soccer Association is seeking sponsorship from companies. For information on sponsorship phone 222 2223.

The squad is: Bronwyn Calver, Laura Fisher, Katrina Alexander, Lisa Van Dorp, Karin Wilkinson, Sarah Cooper, Gail Pace, Yvonne Mitchell, Yolanda McCarthy, Leanne Edmondson, Denise Wright, Lee-Anne Hamilton, Katrina Barsby, Denise Pentecost, Samantha O'Brien, Kerrie Rowe.

The Australian women's titles are being played in Alice Springs in August and the under-18 titles are being held in Brisbane in July. The Victorian Women's Soccer Association is currently accepting applications for the coaching positions for these two teams up until February 27. For further details phone Debbie on 795 6456 (H) or 665 6275 (W).

● Everton, the first English team to play in France since the Heysel Stadium disaster in Brussels in 1985, beat French First Division club Bordeaux 2-1 in a friendly match last week.

French World Cup midfielder Jean-Marc Ferreri put Bordeaux in front after 30 minutes in the inaugural match at the reconstructed municipal stadium but Everton hit back with goals inside five minutes midway through the second half by Adrian Heath and Ian Snodin.

Snodin later twice saved off his own goal-line with keeper Neville Southall beaten.

A riot triggered by English fans left 39 dead and scores injured at the European Cup Final at Heysel between Juventus of Turin and Everton's neighbour Liverpool. Liverpool would have played Bordeaux but for an overcrowded program.

European Football Union (UEFA) president Jacques Georges of France said he was



● Alun Evans — leaving Sandringham City?

satisfied with security and there was no crowd trouble at the match.

"English clubs can't always stay out in the cold. We welcome them with open arms as soon as the incidents or hooliganism are controlled," he said.

● Victorian League Second Division club Sandringham looks certain to sign Steve Wild from Melbourne Hungaria.

Sandringham has retained the services of former Green Gully winger Bill Morrey as coach but there's doubt about ex-South Melbourne Hellas striker Alun Evans staying with the club.

Sandringham announced last week that it had signed a major sponsorship deal with

the Argo hotel and was negotiating another sponsorship deal with a major brewing company.

● Gerry Edmondson is on the move from Melbourne Hungaria.

Edmondson played with Inglewood Kiev in the West Australian State League before coming to Melbourne and joining Hakoah in the late 1970s. He played with Frankston Pines before joining Melbourne and playing an integral part in the success it enjoyed in 1985 when it won its way into State League.

Edmondson can play in defence or in midfield and is on a free transfer. He can be contacted during business hours on 359 9166.

● A branch of the world famous Manchester United Supporters' Club has been formed in Melbourne.

The branch received notification recently from Sir Matt Busby of his acceptance of the position of president of the Australasia branch.

The branch plans to provide members with a newsletter, videos, match programs, posters, score cards, scarves, shirts, a pictorial history of Manchester United and a host of other souvenirs.

The branch also will organise group travel tours at discount prices, incorporating United's matches in the UK and Europe and will assist in ticket arrangements for members visiting the UK.

For further information, write to: The Secretary, Manchester United Supporters' Club, Australasia Branch, PO Box 423, Doncaster 3108, Victoria.

Basic membership costs \$10 per annum with a signing-on fee of just \$5.

● Kit Greechan has been transferred by Sunbury United at his own request.

Greechan, 29, is a former Albion Rovers, Western Suburbs and Green Gully player. He has been with Sunbury for the past three seasons and won the club's best and fairest award last year.

Clubs interested in contacting the talented Greechan can phone him during business hours on 316 3120.

O'Donnell impressed by Egan, McKinna

By JOHN MANGAN

"I really didn't know what to expect when I came out to Australia," says Joe O'Donnell, Green Gully's recent signing from Scottish club Stranraer, "but I needed a break from my club back home so I thought, well, I might as well give it a try out here."

O'Donnell touched down on Australian soil last July and although he was too late to sign with a club last year it gave him plenty of time to meet a few people in the Melbourne soccer scene.

Then at the end of last season O'Donnell came to the attention of Gully coach Gus Macleod when he played in the Scottish team in the Qantas World Cup. That team was coached by Macleod.

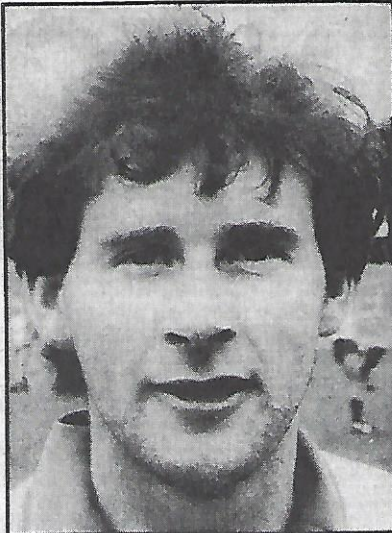
Since then O'Donnell has trained with Brunswick Juventus, Heidelberg and South Melbourne Hellas.

O'Donnell's most pressing concern was that he needed to sign up with a club straight away so that he could sort out his visa requirements and, understandably, coaches were reluctant to commit themselves without having seen him play a few games.

Macleod however had seen enough in the Qantas World Cup to convince him that O'Donnell was worth snapping up.

"I had a bit of trouble getting Stranraer to release me to Green Gully — they thought that I was here on a holiday and in the end Gus (Macleod) had to speak to them and convince them that I really intended staying here."

O'Donnell is an electrician by trade. He has got a job now and is applying for permanent residency. He is full of praise for Macleod and the people at Green Gully who have helped him to settle down here.



● Joe O'Donnell: "I'm very optimistic about Green Gully's prospects this season."

In fact, the likeable Scot has been impressed generally by how friendly the Australians he has met are.

"At all the clubs I trained with the lads have been really friendly and made me feel right at home. You're only there for a few hours and you're one of the boys. It's great!"

O'Donnell distinguished himself in his three years with Stranraer coming runner-up and then winning the club's player of the year award. Towards the end of last season he was appointed club captain.

By the end of last season though things were changing. A lot of his friends in the team had moved on and he was keen to try his luck in a higher division. Although a number of clubs made offers for him, among them Kilmarnock, Partick Thistle, Morton and Hamilton Academicals, none of them could reach agreement with Stranraer which, depending on the interested party, was asking as much as \$50,000 for him.

But now O'Donnell is here and he has already tasted the hard edge of Australian soccer. "I was practically injury-free in all my time at Stranraer but I've only played a few games here — in the World Cup I sprained my ankle and then in my first game for Gully

last week against Croydon I damaged my medial ligaments."

Is that because the Australian game is tougher? "Not at all," says O'Donnell, "it's simply that I've been out of the game for a few months so I'm still returning to full match fitness."

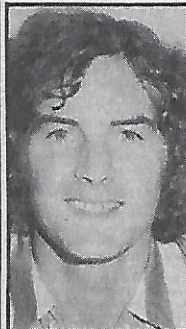
The players who have caught his eye in his short time here have been Charlie Egan and Laurie McKinna and he makes no bones about the fact that his ambition is to be playing with them in the West End National League as soon as possible.

Obviously the best way to achieve that goal is by having a successful season this year with Gully.

"The team's not playing that well at the moment but we're still winning and that's usually a good sign. I'm very optimistic about Green Gully's prospects this season from what I've seen."

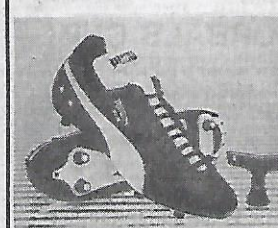








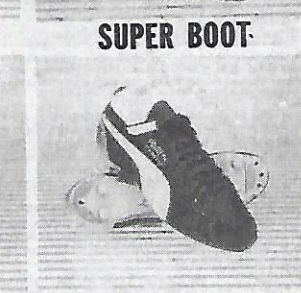
And when can we expect to see O'Donnell back in action? "Well, I'm seeing a physio at the moment and the latest I've heard is that it will be between 10 days and four weeks before I can play again."

And then we all might see O'Donnell hit top form. Certainly an exciting prospect for all Gully fans.

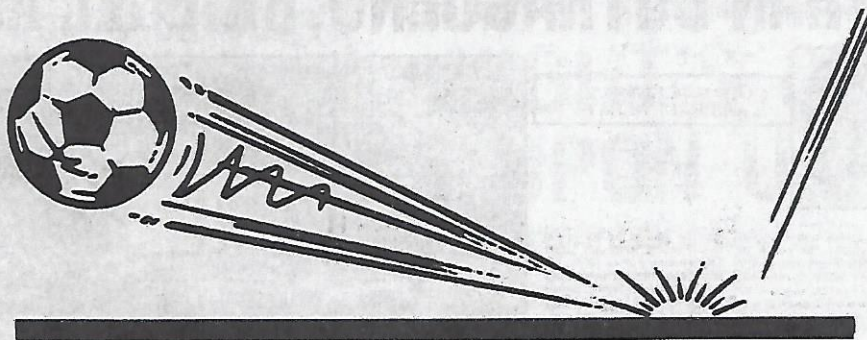


● Gerry Edmondson

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BETTER THAN BUTRAGUENO, BRIEGEL AND PFAFF

At approximately the same time that Peter Taylor's inclusion in the Aussie test cricket side was puzzling sports fans on this side of the world, their northern hemisphere counterparts were equally mystified by the selection of Igor Belanov as European Footballer of the Year.

The Europeans may not have chorused 'Igor who?' because memories of his hat-trick against Belgium during the 1986 World Cup Finals were too vivid, but the first impression would have been that a number of candidates had better qualifications for the award.

World Cup leading scorer Gary Lineker, Spain's lethal striker Emilio Butragueno, Belanov's compatriot Alexandre Zavarov, West German powerhouse Hans Peter Briegel and the Belgian pair of Jean-Marie Pfaff and Jan Ceulemans all initially appeared to be more appropriate.

Yet, Belanov topped the poll with a healthy majority and a closer scrutiny of his exploits during 1986 shows that no other player extended his influence as widely as the Dynamo Kiev and USSR striker — over World Cup, European championship, European club competitions and domestic tournaments.

History, it can be predicted with a fair amount of confidence, will judge Belanov to be a worthy successor to Alfredo Di Stefano, Lev Yashin, George Best, Johan Cruyff and the other legendary figures who have been crowned Europe's best and the journalists who participated in the poll just as inspired in their choice as the Aussie cricket selectors with Peter Taylor!

Belanov's story is an unusual one for a star Soviet footballer in that he did not attend any of the numerous soccer schools — drawn across the USSR which produce an endless stream of talent for the Soviet Supreme League clubs. His soccer education was provided by games with other children from the Odessa neighbourhood he grew up in, which were staged in a local courtyard and went on into the evening.

While playing for his housing estate in the nationwide "Leather Ball" competition for



Overseas round-up with PAUL MOON

juniors, he was spotted by Edward Malofeyev, the coach of Chernomoretz ("Black Sea") Odessa. As Belanov reflected during a recent interview: "With him it all began. He was my first proper coach and to him I am eternally grateful."

After graduating quickly through the Chernomoretz youth and reserve sides, the young striker just had established himself in its senior side when it was time for his two years of compulsory military service and, with it, a couple of seasons playing for the Odessa Army Club.

Upon finishing his army stint, Belanov was approached by Dynamo Kiev coach Valery Lubanovsky, the second great influence of his career, to join the illustrious Dynamo. To most outsiders it would have seemed a golden opportunity as Chernomoretz were a mediocre team with little chance of bettering themselves while Kiev had long been an established power in European club competitions. Yet, Belanov, fearing homesickness, turned it down.

After one more season at Chernomoretz, Belanov was again offered the chance to move to Dynamo. This time he accepted, but upon completing an initial training session under Lubanovsky, far more arduous than anything previously encountered, considered returning home.

Through sheer application, the South Ukrainian attained the fitness required of him, but it wasn't until his wife and baby daughter were permitted to move to Kiev that he was able to settle in the city.

Belanov made his debut for Dynamo at the beginning of the 1985 Soviet League season. Two superb strikes against Spartak Moscow early in the campaign marked him as a player of exceptional ability and goals followed regularly as Lubanovsky successfully moulded the second great Kiev

side (to follow the European Cup Winners' Cup and Super Cup winning side of 1975). Belanov remained in impressive form throughout 1985 — a year which saw Dynamo win both the domestic league and cup.

A call-up for the Soviet national combination was inevitable and Belanov first wore his country's colors when coming on as a substitute against Switzerland in a World Cup qualifying game in May, 1985.

Two months later, he made the USSR starting line-up for the first time in a crucial World Cup game at Copenhagen. Denmark won 4-2 and the international career of Belanov, who had played badly, came to a temporary halt.

The Dynamo Kiev striker failed to find a place in coach Edward Malofeyev's provisional squad for the 1986 World Cup Finals and would have been left to watch the tournament on television had Malofeyev not been dismissed just three weeks before it commenced. Lubanovsky took over the reins and named a totally new selection, one based upon his Kiev side which just had won the European Cup Winners' Cup.

The USSR number 19 scored four goals during the Mundial and created two others. Belanov's other major achievements of last year were two goals for the USSR from two European Championship games, five goals during Dynamo Kiev's Cup Winner's Cup triumph, the goal which clinched the Soviet League title for Dynamo and selection for the Rest of the World team that met the Americas in a charity match staged at Pasadena.

With 1987 promising so much for Dynamo Kiev and the USSR, both currently in devastating form, Belanov should be given plenty of opportunities to prove beyond any remaining doubt that he fully deserves the accolade of European Footballer of the Year.



Igor Belanov, with the Rest of the World team that played against the Americas last year in a charity match staged in Pasadena. Back row: Butcher, Amoros, Stielke, Dassave, Lerby, Magath, Timoumi, Hermann. Front: Strachan, Jennings, Renquin, Park, Rocheteau, Belanov, Rossi.

Is Gullit as good as Maradona?

PSV Eindhoven, financed as it is by the electronics giant Philips, has spent a lot of money on players over the last two years.

The Danes Ivan Nielsen and Frank Arnesen and the Belgian Eric Gerets, who all played in Mexico, have come to Eindhoven. Dutch internationals Hans van Breukelen and Rene van der Gijp also joined PSV.

But the public they are merely the people who line up with Ruud Gullit.

Gullit is 24 years old. He has 20 caps. Of Dutch West Indian origin, his main characteristics are his size (extra large) and his Rasta dreadlocks.

His professional career started at 16, with Haarlem. Haarlem's Welsh manager Barry Hughes was impressed by him, and unwisely said so. As a result Manchester United was after him before he was 17. In 1982, however, at 19, Gullit joined Feyenoord, Holland's Man United. He stayed there for three years and made his debut for Holland.

He joined PSV in 1985. Feyenoord's fans called him a mercenary, but Gullit said he simply wanted to play in a better team. Feyenoord was not even a contender for the Dutch championship.

PSV was gunning for a European Cup. But Gullit was suspended after being sent off in the first round, and without him PSV was beaten by Dniypropetrowsk in the second round.

He is the player PSV can least afford to miss. Although playing at sweater last season he scored 27 goals and set up many more.

Usually his attacking impulse comes from his Beckenbauer-like rushes from defence.

He will beat five or six opponents and then release a frightening drive or reach the goal-line to cross.

The way he fools opponents is interesting. He doesn't. He just runs past them, ignoring their presence.

His long strides prevent others from keeping up with him. On one such run for Feyenoord against Alkmaar he ran from one penalty area to the other to sidefoot a goal. Nobody so much as tackled him.

No wonder he was chosen the Dutch Players' Footballer of the Year last year.

Gullit must be the best player not to have appeared in Mexico. Like George Best, he is the star of a weak national side. Feyenoord manager, whose Belgian team reached the semi-finals, said: "Ruud Gullit is an exceptional player. I saw nobody like him in Mexico."

PSV's manager, Hans Kraay, said straight out: "Gullit is as good as Maradona."

But despite his great skill, something may be missing. Does Gullit have the competitive drive which a great sportsman must have?

In 1983 he said: "I don't feel the urge to win. If we win it's fine, and if we lose deservedly I don't mind."

He admitted that after Belgium eliminated Holland from the World Cup in a play-off he slept very well, thank you.

Holland's irrepressible manager Rinus Michels ("Football is War!") lambasted him so severely one would have thought Gullit had slept during the match itself.

Gullit claims to be more competitive now, but one cannot picture him sobbing on Michels' shoulder after a defeat. He would more probably be strumming a guitar and singing gentle love songs beside an Amsterdam canal.

He comes from bohemian Amsterdam and his single 'Not the Dancing Kind' reached the top ten although it does not have a footballing theme.

His song-writer says of him: "He hasn't got Iglesias' timbre, but then he's more rhythmic. He could stop playing football and become a pop star."

But Gullit says he has no musical ambitions. He may be a more single-minded footballer today than he once was, but if PSV or Holland don't have a lot of success this year, it probably won't keep Gullit awake at night.



Ruud Gullit of PSV Eindhoven. His manager says Gullit "is as good as Maradona."

ITALY'S SHOW ALREADY ON THE ROAD

It is over six months since Jorge Burdach scored the winning goal in the 1986 World Cup Final in Mexico City... yet the show is already on the road to the bid to stage the 1990 finals in Italy.

And one surprise is that it is by no means that the Final will be staged in Rome.

As in Spain in 1982 the threat of political infighting looms large over prospects for bringing the municipally-owned stadium to scratch or even checking that they possess the basic structural requirements for the necessary conversions to meet all the rules on seating, capacity, VIP areas, media, etc. Subject to particular doubt are the stadia at Bari, Turin (believe it or not) and Udine.

Italy's top sports official (and Local Organising Committee president) Franco Carraro has already admitted publicly that the stadia available need between 20 and 30 percent redevelopment costing around £140 million.

As for the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, this has been heavily criticised as outdated and inadequate to cope with the expected public and media demands.

Already proposals have been floated for the Final to be allocated to the Stadio Meazza at San Siro, Milan, for the "second" Rome stadium, the Flaminio, to be enlarged, or even for a new 140,000-capacity stadium to be built on the outskirts of the capital.

As things stand (and without any particular order of priority for the "plum" matches), the 12 stadia to be recommended this coming spring to FIFA will be Turin, Milan, Genoa, Verona, Udine, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples, Bari, Cagliari and Palermo.

This would, of course, involve most regions from Udine in the north to Palermo in Sicily and Cagliari in Sardinia. But already, of course, there have been predictable protests from towns passed over, notably, Ascoli, Lecce and Perugia. But they, it appears, are expendable. The issue of the stadia is, after all, a perfect example of what one might term a political football.

far the greater international fame (or notoriety), depending on which side of the political fence you sit.

The fascination of this "summit" was that the football public was at last allowed a glimpse of the way the game's greatest event will be shaped in three and a half years' time.

It was in December, 1984, that the 1990 finals were awarded to Italy, which will thus become the First European nation to stage the finals twice — the original hosting having been in 1934, when Italy beat Czechoslovakia 2-1 after extra time in the final under the watchful eye of Mussolini.

Italy's rivals for the 1990 nomination included France, West Germany, England and the Soviet Union. In the case of both France and the Soviet Union it was felt that their candidatures were, in fact, stalking horses in advance of more serious attempts to win the staging rights for 1998.

The Italian federation quickly set up a steering committee, yet although all manner of commercial decisions have already been taken, the dates of the finals remain uncertain. The starting date is expected to be the second or third week of June. But no one can say for certain.

It is assured is the huge profit which the finals will make thanks to the business acumen behind the Italia 90 organising committee. This has been set up as a private company with income coming from FIFA, through the ISL-co-ordinated Intersector Four sponsorship programme, from licensing and merchandising, from television fees and, last but by no means least, from match ticket sales.

Unlike past World Cup finals tournaments, it is intended to grade ticket prices this time according to the importance and comparative attraction of the various matches. Whether this is a practical proposition, given the need to price package tours etc far in advance of the fans' draw in December, 1989, appears open to question.

At least the match formula for sorting out the 24 nations will remain similar to the system used in Mexico, i.e. six first round groups of four teams with the top two from each group plus the four third-placed teams with the best record, entering the second round.

Burkinshaw at Sporting Lisbon

Former Tottenham Hotspur manager Keith Burkinshaw has been appointed coach of Sporting Lisbon.

Albert Roosen, Secretary General of the Belgian federation, has been charged with "manslaughter through negligence" following the riots at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels two years ago in which 39 people died. Roosen supervised ticket sales.

Progress has qualified for the Libertadores Cup for the first time by winning a play-off among the Uruguayan league's four clubs.

Former Leeds United and Scotland winger Eddie Gray is the latest manager at Rochdale — an English Fourth Division club which has had 17 men in charge of it since 1945.

Sydney City Hakoah's Clint Gosling was included in the New Zealand squad for a four game series against Soviet

club Dynamo Minsk which began on February 8.

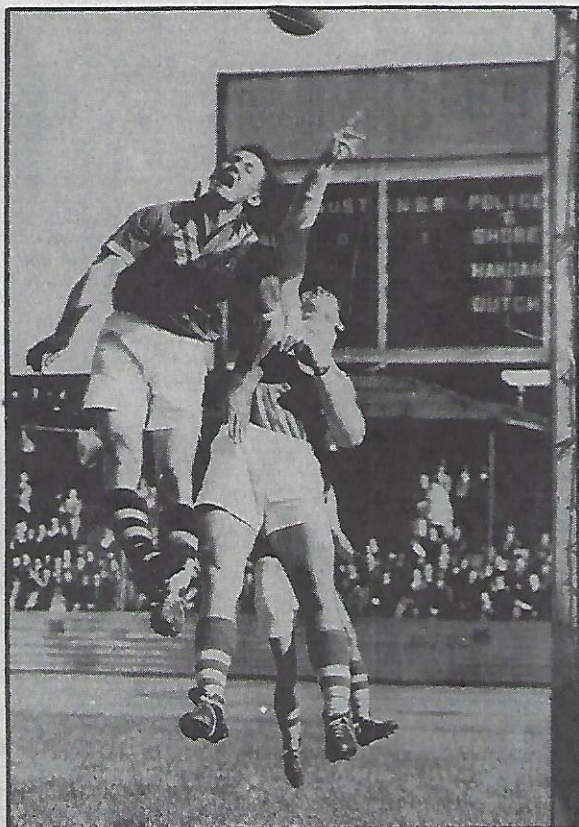
Luis Aragonés has resumed as coach of Athletic Madrid. He resigned the post last August while suffering from severe depression, but was persuaded to return when the second of his successors was dismissed.

The draw for the fifth round of the English FA Cup is: Arsenal v Barnsley, Wimbledon v Everton, Tottenham Hotspur v Newcastle United,

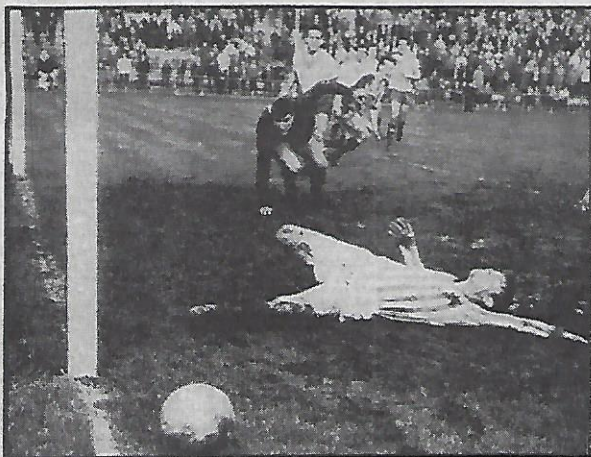
Walsall v Watford, Stoke City v Coventry City, Leeds United v Queens Park Rangers, Wigan Athletic v Hull City, Sheffield Wednesday v West Ham United. The matches will be played on the mornings of February 22 and 23, Australian time.

The USSR won the Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Cup for the third successive year when defeating Bulgaria 2-0 in the final at Kozhikode.

BLASTS FROM THE PAST



● NSW goalkeeper Ron Lord (right) punches the ball clear before Australian forward Frank Parsons can head it in. This clash, in September 1950, ended in a surprising 3-0 win for NSW at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Parsons was one of the most prolific goalscorers in the history of soccer in NSW and in later years turned to soccer administration. Lord still is regarded as the greatest ever goalkeeper to wear the green and gold.



● George Cross forward "Ginger" Cassar is down and almost out. He can't believe that he's missed this chance to push the ball into the unguarded goal. In the background is South Melbourne Hellas goalkeeper Tanayotis Tsitsos. This was the 1960s, a golden era for both clubs, a time when George Cross won the Australia Cup and Hellas won championships galore.



● Slovan Bratislava toured Australia in 1966 and boasted seven Czechoslovakian internationals. They were, from left: Joseph Adamec, Ludovit Cvetler, Anton Urban, Jan Popluhar, Alexander Horvath, Joseph Fillo and Willie Schroit.



● The now defunct Slavia in 1980. Back row: Tony Vrzina, John Cullen, Mick McGorian, Davie Griffiths, Paul Wade, Rajko Bjelica, Fred Neri, Liam Houston, Danny Ward, Harry Chalkitis, Kaz Kowalec. Front row: Cliff Whiteside, Billy Brindle, Daryl Gooch, Paul Cooke, Stevie Lawson, Andy Golby, Neville Haupt, David Pye.



● Norman Conquest was Australia's goalkeeper during its greatest ever humiliation on a soccer field. England defeated Australia 17-0 at the SCG in the 1950s.



● Roger Romanowicz at Socceroo training in 1967, two days before making his debut for the national team in goal against New Zealand. He had just turned 20 then. Romanowicz was born in Germany and was three years old when he came to Australia. He played Australian Rules football until a group of friends talked him into switching to soccer. He joined Polonia Adelaide when he was 16.



● The name Hakoah no longer exists in Victorian soccer but it remains one of that State's greatest ever clubs. And here's one of the mightiest Hakoah sides of all times. It's 1968 and this Hakoah side has both class and character. Back row: Dick van Alphen, Mike O'Hara, Hugh Murney, George Keith, Ian Monan, Jim Armstrong. Front row: Alex Purdie, John O'Neill, Ted Smith, Keith Fry, Alan Stenhouse. Keith went on to make 22 Socceroo appearances, his first in 1967 against New Zealand. Armstrong made four Socceroo appearances while van Alphen's 10-game national team stint started in 1967 against New Zealand and ended in 1968 against Japan.



● This certainly is an historic picture. The cynics will say that it's because there's a crowd at Bruce Stadium and certainly, we don't see sights like this in Canberra nowadays. It's May 6, 1978, the date of Canberra City's 0-0 draw with Marconi in the Phillips League. The man in action is the great Peter Marinello who was guesting with Canberra at the time. Marinello was a former Hibs and Arsenal player once described as the new George Best. Incidentally, there were 8,416 people at this game. My, how things change.

TA NEA TON OMAΔON MΑΣ APO TO ΣΗΜΕΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΠΕΝΑΛΤΥ

by
Manos
Milios

ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΚΟ ΚΥΠΕΛΛΟ

Ο ΧΟΡΟΣ του ελληνικού Κυπέλλου θα γίνει στις 27 Φεβρουαρίου και ώρα 8.00 μ.μ. στο "ANTIS RESORTS". Κατά την διάρκεια της βραδιάς θα γίνει και η απονομή των επάθλων στους διακριθέντες παίκτες.

ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟ - ΤΟΛΙΑΣΤΟΥ

ΤΗΝ Κυριακή 22/2 στο γήπεδο του Ηρακλή η νικήτρια του Ελληνικού Κυπέλλου ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟ και η αντίστοιχη του Ιταλικού για πρώτη φορά θα συναντηθούν μεταξύ τους. Ο αγώνας θα γίνει στις 4.00 μ.μ. ενώ στις 2.00 μ.μ. θα αναμετρηθούν οι φιναλίστ στις τρεις των δύο κυπέλλων ΣΑΛΑΖΙ(ΝΕΟΙ) και ΙΠΟΥΚΗΝ.

BUFFALO GOLD CUP

ΓΙΑ το κύπελλο Buffalo απόψε ο Αλέξανδρος θα αντιμετωπίσει το Ηρόδ ΧΑ(7.15) και στη συνέχεια η Τζ.Κρος θα παίξει με το Βράνκοστον. Την Παρασκευή η ΣΑΛΑΣ (7.15 μ.μ.) παίζει με το Κρόντο και στο δεύτερο μίτς η ομάδα της Κρόντα με το Στ.Αλμπανς. Το Σάββατο 21/2 θα παίζουν: Τζόζος-Τιρκήν Γκάλου και Γιουβέντους-Πρέστον.

ΚΑΡΑΧΑΝΤ - ΕΒΝΙΛΙΟ

Η ΠΑΡΗΚΕΤΟΥ διοργανώνει η ομάδα Εθνικής Κάλφληστο στο γήπεδο του την Ιη Εκέρτου.

ΕΛΙΦΤΟΝ ΧΙΛ

ΚΑΘΕ Δευτέρα, Τετάρτη και Παρασκευή προπονείται το Ελίφτον Χιλ στο γήπεδο του. Επίσης άρχισαν οι εγγραφές για τα τζούνιους.

ΚΥΠΕΛΛΟ ΠΑΛΑΙΜΑΧΩΝ

ΑΠΟΥΣ την Κυριακή οι προκριματικοί αγώνες του Κυπέλλου των Παλαιμάχων που γίνονται στο γήπεδο του Νορντλίκ. Οι συναντήσεις είναι οι εξής: 12.00 μ.μ. ΗΕΛΛΑΣ - ΚΑΡΠΙΝΤΑ, 1.30 ΓΙΑΠΑΡΙΑ - ΕΜΠΑΛΕΣ, 3.00 ΓΚΡΗΚ ΣΠΟΤ - ΓΟΥΑΒΕΡΑΥ και 4.30 ΓΚΑΡΒΕΝ ΣΙΓΥ - ΜΟΡΤΙΑΛΑΚ.

ΗΕΤ ΑΛΤΙΟΝ

ΜΕ τον Βασίλη Θεοχαρίδη άρχισε προπονήσεις η Ηετ Αλτίον κάθε Τρίτη και Πέμπτη στο γήπεδο της. Επίσης άρχισαν και οι εγγραφές των τζούνιους. Πληροφορίες στο 314 0143 στον πρόεδρο Β.Γιαννακόλη.

ΑΘΕΑ ΓΙΑΠΑΡΙΑ

ΚΑΘΕ Τρίτη και Πέμπτη προπονείται η Αθ-εα Γιάρραβιλ στο παλιό γήπεδο της στο EDWARDS RESERVE, BRUNEL ST. SPOTSWOOD MY 41 - 612, και από ώρα 6.30 μ.μ. Αδριο Πέμπτη η δέξα δίνει φιλικούς αγώνες με την Ρούεστ στο Στ.Αλμπανς και ώρα 6, ενώ το Σάββατο θα παίξει στο Σάουθ Σπρι νγκάιλ με την τοπική ελληνική ομάδα. Η συνάντηση έχει χαρακτήρα προπονήσε-

ως και θα αρχίσει στις 4.00 μ.μ. Σύντομα η δέξα θα κάνει προπονήσεις στο καινούριο της γήπεδο που έχει τέλειο ηλεκτροφωτισμό για νυχτερινά παιχνίδια.

ΚΥΡΓΙΟΣ - ΓΙΟΥΒΕΝΤΟΥΣ - ΚΑΙΤΩΝ ΧΙΛ

Ο ΝΕΑΡΟΣ ταλαντούχος παίκτης του ΚΑΙΤΩΝ ΧΙΛ προπονείται με την Γιουβέντους και έχει αφήσει άριστες εντυπώσεις. Σίγουρα όπως φαίνεται ο άριστος αυτός γκολκίπερ θα βρεθεί στο Κάσιουαλ Λήγκ. Οπωσδήποτε όμως όλα θα εξαρτηθούν από την καλή θέληση θλάν.Δηλαδή οι του ΚΑΙΤΩΝ να δώσουν την ευκαιρία στον παίκτη αλλά φυσικά να μη χάσουν. Επίσης η Γιουβέντους θα πρέπει να πάρει το θέμα λογικά και να ξέρει ότι θα πληρώσει τον Κόργιο αλλά θα της βγει χρυσάφι στο μέλλον.

ΣΤΟΝ ΗΡΑΚΛΗ Ο ΔΙΑΜΑΝΤΑΡΗΣ;

Ο ΘΕΑ Διαμαντάρης ο ταλαντούχος κινηγός του Πόρτ Μέλμπορν έχει έλθει σ' επαφή με τον Ηρακλή και όπως φαίνεται θα καταλήξει στην κυανόλευκη ομάδα.

ΖΗΤΟΥΝΤΑΙ ΠΡΟΠΟΝΗΤΕΣ

ΠΡΟΠΟΝΗΤΕΣ για τις ομάδες των τζούνιους ζητάει η δέξα και οι ενδιαφερόμενοι μπορούν να τηλεφωνήσουν στον πρόεδρο Τζιμ

Αμανατίδη στο 682068. Επίσης άρχισαν οι εγγραφές των τζούνιους του σάλλντον.

ΛΑΙΤΗΛΟΡ - ΔΟΞΑ Ι - Ι

ΜΕΤΑ από ενδιαφέροντα αγώνα που είχε αρκετό πελάρα και δύναμη το Λαίτηλορ και η δέξα Γιάρραβιλ έφεραν Ισοπαλία Ι-Ι. Στο σκόρ προηγήθηκε η γηπεδόχος με τον Νελδεκόπουλο στο 56' και η δέξα ισοφόρησε στο 72' με φάουλ του Γιάργου Μελέτη. Με την ομάδα του Γιάρραβιλ δεν αγωνίστηκε και ο Γκιλλαν και Τζ.Δημητρίου ο οποίος εισήλθε σε κλινική για εγχείρηση που έπρόκειτο να γίνει στον ώμο του την Δευτέρα.

Οι συμπαίκτες του, ο προπονητής, το Δ.Σ. και οι φίλαθλοι εύχονται στον συμπαθή Τζιμ ταχεία ανάρρωση.

ΠΑΛΑΙΜΑΧΟΙ

ΤΑ αποτελέσματα των αγώνων του Κυπέλλου των Παλαιμάχων είναι τα εξής: ΕΜΠΑΛΕΣ - ΜΟΡΤΙΑΛΑΚ 2 - 0 ΣΚΑΗ - ΠΕΛΟΛΑΣ 3 - 1 ΠΑΝΑΧΑΛΚΗ - ΓΚΑΡΒΕΝ 2 - 0 ΚΑΡΠΙΝΤΑ - ΓΚΡΗΚ ΣΠΟΤ 4 - 1

ΑΤΡΟΜΗΤΟΕ

ΣΥΝΕΧΙΖΕΙ Ο Ατρώμητος τις προπονήσεις κάτω από τις οδηγίες του Χρ.Μυλάνα.

Juve: squadra o squadrone?



with ROCKY DI ZIO

I risultati fin qui conseguiti dalla Juventus nella Coppa notturna non sono certamente brillanti, ne lasciano intravedere tendenti miglioramenti di una certa notevolezza; ma nel clan bianconero sembra regni una certa dose di consapevole fiducia. Almeno a sentire il team manager Joe Caruso.

Per cominciare Sean Lane gode della massima fiducia del dirigente juventino e dovrà perciò produrre, prima o poi, i risultati che è lecito aspettarsi da un giocatore pagato una tombola.

Caruso ha tenuto a precisare ancora una volta che l'ex attaccante del Preston è stato "buttato a mare" nella Coppa Notturna con il minimo di allenamento dopo cinque mesi di inattività.

Quindi con un Zinni come "general" in avanti ed un Patterson come appoggio e fornitore di palloni, il nuovo acquisto dovrebbe formare un trio micidiale una volta che

avrà raggiunto la condizione fisica e l'intesa necessarie.

A centrocampista Caruso ammette che si sono creati dei punti con le partenze di Peter e Wade: ma la situazione secondo lui non è poi tanto tragica e potrebbe migliorare di molto.

Oltre a Patterson che sta dimostrando una maggiore inclinazione al ruolo di centrocampista d'attacco, rispetto a quello di punta avanzata, Grbac è un giocatore che secondo Caruso dovrebbe fare grandi cose. Durakovic potrebbe anche essere impiegato a centrocampista e tutti sanno ormai che è un atleta di grandi mezzi; Cullen con la sua grande esperienza e pur sempre una pedina importante.

Ma forse la notizia migliore per quello che riguarda il centrocampo è che Caruso crede ci siano buone possibilità che John Dowie, operato alcune settimane fa al tallone d'Achille, possa essere pienamente ristabilito e pronto a scendere in campo per l'inizio del campionato (29 marzo).

"Naturalmente — ha detto Caruso — sappiamo che a centrocampo ci sono dei punti deboli e teniamo sempre gli occhi aperti per qualche nuovo elemento, ma vogliamo solo qualcuno eccezionale, che non capita tutti i giorni. Se non capita, faremo il meglio possibile con il materiale che abbiamo a disposizione, senza buttare soldi al vento".

Per quanto riguarda la difesa Caruso sembra sicuro che non ci dovrebbero essere problemi ma la massima fiducia nel giovane estremo difensore Maramanna e crede che l'incantesimo diventerà un buon terzo.

Caruso ha detto che il club è in procinto di acquistare un altro "jovanotto portiere" e che quindi il migliore dei due schiererà, come del resto prescrive la regola fondamentale del gioco. Sembra certo perciò che il club non cercherà di trattare Yalka Banovic messo da tempo in lista di trasferimento.

Poche speranze esistono anche per Eddie Campbell che

potrebbe finire alla Croatia, anche se alla Juventus non dispiacerebbe che il miglior giocatore dell'anno dello scudetto nazionale rimanesse in bianconero.

Intanto John Yzendoorn è atteso a Melbourne per sabato e dovrebbe scendere in campo sabato sera contro il Preston.

Per questo incontro McKendry dovrebbe avere a disposizione tutta la rosa dei titolari (ad eccezione di Dowie) e dovrebbe perciò cominciare a dare i ritocchi definitivi a quella che dovrà essere la formazione base.

Una cosa è certa: contro il Preston la Juventus scenderà in campo per vincere e mantenere così ancora accessa la speranza di qualificarsi per le semifinali; questa possibilità può apparire molto remota, ma non è matematicamente da escludere.

Quindi stando a come Caruso vede la situazione attuale alla

Juventus, le cose non sono brillanti ma nemmeno tanto male. E potrebbero migliorare di molto una volta che Lane comincerà a girare a pieno ritmo, Dowie viene recuperato, i "ragazzi" acquistano fiducia e qualche elemento di alto valore viene pescato sul mercato locale o all'estero.

Essere ottimisti all'inizio di ogni stagione è un po' un passaggio forzato per ogni team manager e Caruso può anche basare il suo ottimismo su una lunga esperienza (è ormai in carica per il quinto anno consecutivo) e sulla cieca fiducia che egli professa visceratamente in McKendry.

Sarebbe perciò inopportuno voler cercare di dire altrimenti. Nessuno come Caruso può sapere, cogna stiano le cose, come si svilupperanno durante le prossime settimane. Se lui è consapevolmente fiducioso e segno che sa cose che non sono ancora visibili alla maggior parte degli osservatori.

Per cominciare egli ci ha assicurato che sabato prossimo, contro il Preston, la Juventus milita alla vittoria. Il primo banco di prova è quindi vicinissimo e ovviamente tutti speriamo che la fiducia di Caruso si dimostri giustificata.

Una cosa è certa però: la tifoseria dovrà dimenticare una volta per sempre la grande Juventus tesa a vincere il campionato come se si trattasse di una questione di vita o di morte e senza badare a spese.

L'amministrazione attuale non è disposta ad andare oltre certi limiti nel trattare condizioni con giocatori vecchi e nuovi. La parola d'ordine sembra essere "o così o niente".

In linea di massima non possiamo non essere d'accordo con un irrigidimento da parte dei dirigenti nei confronti di giocatori che chiedono sempre più in un "business" che rende sempre meno.

Pero ci vorrebbe anche una certa discrezione ed una certa coerenza. Noi, per esempio, non avremmo permesso che giocatori come Wade e Campbell lasciassero il club per una manciata di dollari in più, quando per acquisire Lane si è spesi una mezza fortuna.

I dirigenti juventini giureranno che nel caso di Wade non c'è stata una questione di soldi e forse sarebbero capaci di fare lo stesso per quanto riguarda Campbell.

Ma se non si tratta di soldi, di cosa si tratta allora? Potremmo avanzare varie speculazioni ma non servirebbero a nulla. Il fatto rimane che giocatori chiave debbono essere trattati a tutti i costi, o quasi.

Per Wade è ormai troppo tardi, ma per Campbell ci potrebbe essere ancor tempo. Con tutto il rispetto che abbiamo per le capacità di adattamento di incantesimo, siamo sicuri che un terzo come Campbell non lo si troverà tanto facilmente.

PLAVA MASINA JOS SKRIPI

Protiv tradicionalnog neugodnog Heidelberg Aleksandra "Plavi" su igrali mnogo bolje nego protiv Hellasa i Croydon City-a, ali jos uvek nedovoljno za pobedu.

Bice dosla posla za Sekulara, ali tako je bilo i prošle godine. Kasno se pocelo, sto ne znaci da treba sasvim dli ruke od nocnog kupa. Naprotiv, poslednje dve utakmice treba iskoristiti za unigravanje i, sto je najvaznije, povratka kondicije.

Sadasnjemtimu nedostaju cetiri igraca: Nikitovic, Belic, Latif i Bozinovski. Svi smo ocekivali Vijetnamca, ali pobedila je struja koja tvrdi da on nema kondiciju i snagu za Nacionalnu ligu. Onda bi mnogi per njega trebali da obese kopacke o klin.

Iako je igrao prvi put Tyrone Jones je pokazao kvalitete, koji su neopodrii JUSI-ovoj odbrani. Valjda ce se vratiti Vlatko Belic, slucaj Vlade Bozinovskog zabrinjava, ali Seki racuna na dva igraca iz Jugoslavije, sto ce iz osnovu izmeniti izgled i igru JUSI-a.

Mladi Zoran Vlainic proglašen je igračem utakmice protiv Aleksandra, sto znaci da golman nije izgubio utakmicu. Naprotiv, Vlainic je spasio svoj tim od tezege poraza. Dok se on hrabro nosio sa opasnim lop-tama, dotle "plava" navla ni jednaput nije ozbiljno ugrozila mrežu Jef Olivera. Bila je jedna

lepa akcija, ali Tapai je sutirao iz voleja dosta daleko od cilja. Sledecu utakmicu JUSI igra protiv Gren Gullyi Alaksa u subotu, 21. februara u 15 uvece. Iste veceri odrzava se i zabava u cast Sekulara, pa se ocekuje pobeda da bi se stvorila svecana atmosfera. Medjutim, ne treba zaboraviti da se Gren Gully sa 4 boda bori za drugo mesto, tako da utakmica nede biti laka.

Iz "B" grupe u polufinale ce verovatno igrati Hellas i Aleksandra. U petak uvece raspored je sledeci:

S. M. Hellas — Croydon City u 7.15pm, Melbourne Croatia — St. Albans Dinamo u 8.40pm.

KLUPSKJE VESTI

SPRINGVALE UNITED odigrao je prvu prijateljsku utakmicu protiv CLAYTON INTERA nerenseno 22 (0:1).

"Plavi" su povelili sa 1:0 preko Dragoslava Jellicica u 20. minutu, posto ga je idealno poslužio Cane Veleviski.

U 50. minutu Cane Veleviski je povelio na 2:0 iz slobodnog udarca sa 20 metara. Umesto da dotuku demoralisano protivnika, "plavi" su usporili tempo i umalo sto nisu dozveli poraz. Sastav Springvale Utd: Milan Mandic (Sasa Jankovic od 45. min), Goran Todorovic, Mica Jankovic, Toma Divic, Predrag Pljanic, Nebojsa Dragovic, Peter Dangovski od 46. min), Ilija Kerezovic, Mark Gentile, Dragoslav Jellicic, Goran Todorovic, Aleksandar Veleviski. Najbolji igraci: Aleksandar

JUGOSLOVENSKA SCENA

lanih priika, a primio jeftin gol.

Ove nedelje igra se 4. kolo. Danas se na Olympic Parku sastaju sledeci timovi:

Heidelberg — Box Hill u 7.15, George Cross — Frankston Pines u 8.40 uvece.

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Najbolji igraci: Aleksandar

Veleviski, Mica Jankovic i Dragoslav Jellicic.

U predigri je rezerva Springvale Uniteda pobedila domaci drugi sastav sa 1:0 (0:0). Strelac: Slavko Sotirovski u 40. minutu.

Revsas susret dva kluba odigrase se u nedelju 15. februara na imanju Jugoslovenskog radnickog centra u Keysborough-u.

Prostog cetvrtak "Plavi" iz Springvale bili su gosti south Springvale sa kojim su igrali nerenseno 1:1 (0:1). Strelac: Peter Lutgens.

Trener Ivica Cvek, koji je ponovo preuzeo ovu dusest, izjavio je da ga ocekuje veoma tezak rad. Ne samo njega vec sve ostale, koji pozitivno rade u fudbalskoj sekciji "Bristava/Jedinstva". Tako je bilo pre 10 godina pa se strpljivo na rang takmicenja dva kluba, poraz Zvezde je ra-

van pobedi, sto se po igri lako moglo dopoditi. Ipak, pobedio je iskusniji tim.

Sastav Zvezde: Bojan Simic, Zoran Roksanovic, Andrew Halvani, Dragisa Nikolic, Ivan Karic (Dejan Andjelkovic od 55. minuta), Dragan Milenkovic, Bora Andjelkovic, Novica Ciric, Goran Simic, Sasa Milenkovic, Zivko vuckovic.

Na ovoj utakmici Ivica Karic je povelio nogu, ali se vracja da ce kratko pauzirati. Uprava i igraci sa nestrpljenjem ocekuju njegov povratk i zele mu brzo ozdravljenje.

Rezerve su igrali nerenseno 2:2 (2:1). Strelci: Goran Ska-dric u 36 i Toza Pobulic u 76. minutu.

Novi trener Zvezdine rezerve Petar Pervaz bio je vise nego zadovoljan sa rezultatom i igrom svog tima.

U cetvrtak 19. februara prvotimovi Springvale Uniteda i Crvene zvezde igraju prijateljsku utakmicu u Keysborough-u u 7 sati uvece.

Altona Kup: Mostel Rangers — Mladost 2:1 (0:1). Mladost je povelila sa 1:0 preko Slobodana Dimitrijevskeg, ali je pred kraj igre primila 2 gola iz penala.

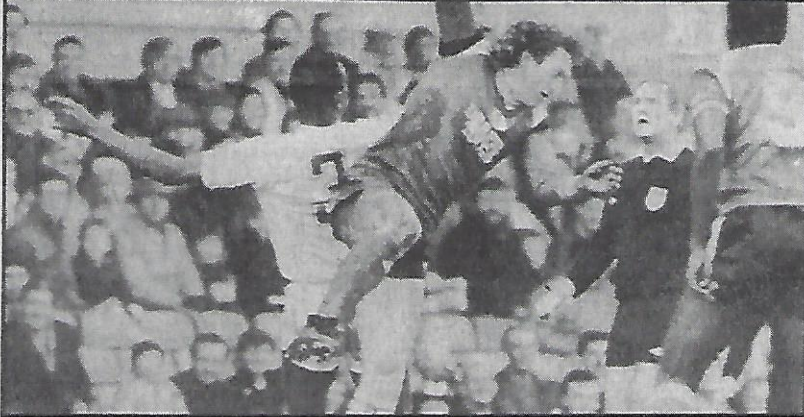
Igrac utakmice bio je Milutin Ciric. Danas u 7.00pm, Mladost igra protiv Altone City na Kim Reserve.



• Vlado Bozinovski

UK soccer results, tables

ENGLISH LEAGUE										
DIVISION ONE										
Coventry 3	Chelsea 0	Liverpool 4	Leicester 3	Luton 2	Aston Villa 1	Manchester United 3	Watford 1	Wolves 1	Sheff Wed 1	Sheff Utd 1
Arsenal 1	Tottenham 2	Southampton 0	Reading 1	Derby 1	Sheff Wed 1	Sheff Utd 1	Sheff Wed 1	Sheff Utd 1	Sheff Wed 1	Sheff Utd 1
DIVISION TWO										
Birmingham 2	Bristol 0	Cardiff 1	Bradford 1	Grimsby 3	Reading 2	Luton 2	Sheff Wed 1	Sheff Utd 1	Sheff Wed 1	Sheff Utd 1
Sheff Wed 1	Sheff Utd 1	Sheff Wed 1	Sheff Utd 1	Sheff Wed 1	Sheff Utd 1	Sheff Wed 1	Sheff Utd 1	Sheff Wed 1	Sheff Utd 1	Sheff Wed 1



● Mitchell Thomas of Tottenham (No.3) sends Glen Cockerill of Southampton flying during their English First Division clash at White Hart Lane on Saturday. Glen Hoddle turned on a masterly display in midfield as Tottenham ran out a 2-0 victor.

Everton still on top

Everton clung on to top spot in the English First Division last weekend after scrambling a late equaliser at Oxford's Manor Ground where its title ambitions were snuffed out last season.

A goal in the final seconds by Paul Wilkinson earned Everton a 1-1 draw and kept it a point clear of long-time leader Arsenal, also held 1-1 at Sheffield Wednesday.

The leading pair will be looking anxiously over their shoulders at champion Liverpool, which moved to within three points of Everton with a thrilling 4-3 win over Leicester.

Welsh international Ian Rush scored a hat-trick for Liverpool to take his tally for the season to 30.

With Nottingham Forest sharing the spoils at home to West Ham, Liverpool was the only side among the top four to win.

Everton laid siege to the Oxford goal after John Treweek's twelfth-minute penalty had given the home side the lead in the 25th minute.

Everton protested that Pat van den Hauwe was fouled as David Langan escaped on the right and was adamant that there was no foul by Gary Stevens on David Leworthy as they both went for — and missed — his cross.

Treweek drove the first penalty wide of goalkeeper Neville Southall's right hand but was ordered to retake it after referee John Martin spotted an infringement. Treweek repeated the shot for his first goal of the season.

Everton, beaten in the corresponding fixture last season — a match it had to win to deny neighbour Liverpool the title — had nothing to show for its pressure until Wilkinson popped up at the death to fire home from close range.

Arsenal, which was nudged off top the previous week, made the perfect start at Hillsborough when Niall Quinn scored in the ninth minute. But a defence which had conceded only 15 goals

in 26 matches was eventually punctured in the 52nd minute by Mark Chamberlain.

Rush, as he often does, stole the limelight at Anfield — but only just from Leicester's highly rated striker Alan Smith. Smith scored twice to keep the result in doubt until the final whistle.

England midfielder Glenn Hoddle was the player to catch the eye at White Hart Lane where Tottenham stayed on the fringe of the title chase with a 2-0 home win over Southampton.

He set up both goals with perfectly flighted crosses into the box. The first, a ninth minute free-kick, was headed home by skipper Richard Gough and the second in the 62nd minute gave Steve Hodge the chance to score with a diving header.

Luton also stayed in the hunt with a 2-1 win over Aston Villa, which has lost on its last five trips to Kenilworth Road. Luton's marksmen were central defender Steve Foster, who scored with a thunderous 25-metre shot, and Mick Harford, with a penalty.

Villa remained second from bottom after Newcastle squandered the chance of a first league victory since mid-December. Recent signing Paul Goddard gave Newcastle a 62nd minute lead at Queen's Park Rangers, but two goals in a five-minute spell by John Byrne and Mike Fillery saw Rangers to a 2-1 win and deepened the gloom surrounding the famous northeast club.

In Scotland, Ally McCoist kept Glasgow Rangers' Premier Division title hopes bubbling by scoring all of their goals in a 3-1 win at St Mirren.

The win took Rangers to within a point of leader Celtic, which was held at a 1-1 draw at home by Hearts. Wayne Foster salvaged a point for Hearts in the 78th minute after Brian McClair had given the defending champion an early lead.

McCoist scored twice in three minutes midway through the first half and completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot in the 88th minute.

Dundee United maintained its title challenge by beating Motherwell 2-0. A header by Kevin Gallacher and a brilliant solo goal by Ian Ferguson gave it the points.

ALLOBELLI STRIKES

A flash of brilliance from striker Alessandro Allobelli was enough to give Italy a 1-0 win over Portugal in a scrappy European championship group two qualifying match last weekend.

The vital goal came five minutes before the interval when full-back Giuseppe Bergomi cashed in on a defensive error to send a perfectly lighted cross to the unmarked Inter star.

Allobelli steadied himself before calmly slotting the ball left-footed past advancing keeper Antonio Jesus as the despairing Portuguese defence appealed in vain for offside.

The goal put Italy on top of the group with maximum points from four games and effectively sank Portugal's hopes for qualifying for the 1990 finals in West Germany.

Both sides began cautiously though it took only five minutes for Allobelli to test a

shaky home defence when he headed a Donadoni free kick against the crossbar.

Portugal's best early chance came 14 minutes later when the ever-dangerous Jaime weaved into the penalty area and a keeper Walter Zenga with a swerving shot that hit the post.

Portuguese striker Manuel Fernandes had a goal rightly disallowed for offside in the 25th minute and a goalless first half looked likely until Allobelli slipped his shadow Dito to give the Portuguese a much-needed lesson in finishing.

The second half was one of all-out Portuguese pressure against a young Italian defence brilliantly marshalled by Ricardo Ferri and the veteran skipper Antonio Cabrini.

But the battering ram tactics produced little classy play and few real chances and Portugal clearly missed the likes of Gomes and Futre who, like

most of Portugal's Mexico World Cup squad, ruled themselves out of selection following a wages row.

The home side, which substituted both Manuel Fernandes and Adao to add bite to the attack, came closest in the 69th minute when Jaime appeared to be tripped in the penalty area. But the French referee was deaf to Portuguese appeals.

Teams

PORTUGAL — Antonio Jesus, Antonio Velez, Dito, Eduardo Luis, Alvaro Magalhães, Antonio Frasco, Nascimento, Quim, Adao (Mario Jorge, 30th minute), Jaime, Manuel Fernandes (Coelho, 57th).

ITALY — Walter Zenga, Giuseppe Bergomi, Antonio Cabrini, Franco Baresi, Riccardo Ferri, Salvatore Bagni, Roberto Donadoni (de Napoli

82nd), Giuseppe Dosenna (Matteoli 75th), Alessandro Allobelli, Giuseppe Giannini, Gianluca Vialli.

Group Two Standings

Italy 4 0 0 1 2 8
Sweden 2 1 0 0 1 5
Portugal 0 2 1 2 3 2
Switzerland 0 0 1 2 3 1
Malta 0 0 0 3 0 12 0

Remaining fixtures: March 29 — Portugal v Malta, April 15 — Switzerland v Malta, May 6 — Sweden v Malta, May 23 or June 3 — Sweden v Italy, June 10 or 17 — Switzerland v Sweden, Sept 23 — Sweden v Portugal, Oct 17 — Switzerland v Italy, Nov 11 — Portugal v Switzerland, Nov 14 — Italy v Sweden, Nov 15 — Malta v Switzerland, Dec 5 — Italy v Portugal, Dec 20 — Malta v Portugal.

Rangers Cup favorites

North Geelong's sequence of wins in the Geelong Advertiser Cup came to an end when it was beaten 1-0 by Hamlyn Rangers at Hume Reserve last week.

Hamlyn controlled the match throughout and North had very few direct attempts at goal. Indeed, North's most dangerous attacker was left back, Eddie Radojevic, whose storming runs caused most of the few moments of panic in the Rangers defence.

Hamlyn lost full-back Sean Conway with a knee injury after two minutes, bringing on 16-year-old Steve McAuliffe. Almost at once, Hamlyn took the lead, when Dave Wainman touched a free kick to Jamie Munoz who shot cleanly into the far corner.

North's most dangerous reply was a Kenny Prior pile-driver, which Gavin Munoz cleared off the line, with Peter Nydam beaten, Frank Simovic, one of North's most creative players, broke his arm just before half-time and he was replaced by John Coutts.

The first 20 minutes of second half were very depressing as neither side seemed to cope with the blustery wind and

By ROY HAY

bumpy ground. North replaced David Krasic with Patrick Allott to add pace and directness on the left, but the nearest it came to scoring was a series of corners on either side, which the Hamlyn defence scrambled clear.

East Geelong beat the newly combined host team, Corio-Geelong United, also by the only goal of the game. The first 20 minutes saw the combine create and squander a dozen chances by passing and re-passing in scoring positions.

Paul van Ouden, the scoring sensation of the Provisional League last season, continued his frustrating start to 1987 by failing to find the net once again. East took a long time to get into the game and half an hour had gone before a fierce shot from Bill Nikolovski was pushed wide for a corner and Smola Bosevski blasted over from the cross.

In the second half, East began to come more into the game, though its goal was hardly the result of constructive play. A loose ball bounced around the Corio goal area and

it fell kindly for Bill Nikolovski who turned it into the net. At the other end, Peter Stojanovski had to head clear with the keeper beaten and Dinko Ujar's free-kick only brought a corner. Paul Reardon then came close to grabbing the equaliser when his shot was pushed round the post by Cane Filipovski.

The combine made several changes with Alex Burda and Dominic Impombato coming on to live up to the midfield. Corio did get the ball into the net after 37 minutes but referee

Joe Jovic, had spotted an earlier infringement.

The two finalists have very similar styles of play, relying on defence in depth with a couple of front runners left to charge on scraps and hold the ball while the midfield comes forward. Hamlyn's greater experience must make it favourite in the match this Friday, but East has improved with each game and cannot be discounted. Coach, Branko Jankulevski, has one Advertiser Cup under his belt and his young side is hungry for another.

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Harry Noon: We'll win the league!

Former Brisbane Lions and Sydney Croatia coach Harry Noon, 45, has arrived in Tasmania to take charge of Croatia-Glenorchy.

Croatia has finished runner-up in the Cadbury State League for the past two seasons and Noon's job will be to go one better than David Crosson was able to in those two years.

"It's a bit of a merry-go-round in New South Wales," Noon said.

"The Les Scheinfflugs and Rale Rasias have everything sewn up there and it's difficult to get back into the coaching side of things.

"When the opportunity came to join Croatia-Glenorchy, I jumped at it, with my eyes open, of course."

Noon has commenced training sessions with his new club but will wait a while before deciding whether or not to recruit new players.

"According to Michael Furjanic, the club president, we've got a lot of good youngsters at the club."

"Well, I'm a track-suit coach so I'll get out there and work with them. If the ability is there, the best eleven will go out onto the park and there'll be no favorites."

Noon is systematic in his coaching, basing it on discipline, strong organization and knowledge of the opposition.

He will look for good technique and the ability to work hard in his players.

By WALTER PLESS

Croatia-Glenorchy's new coach Harry Noon (centre) shakes hands with club president Michael Furjanic (right). Also pictured is former Croatia player-coach Frank Letec. Picture: WALTER PLESS.

"I prefer playing football to kick and rush stuff so we'll build from behind, work a lot from midfield, and push forward," he said.

"I've always had pretty workmanlike teams and I'll be getting my new players to work hard and to work for the ball."

"The sky's the limit and I'll be looking for success."

"With my professional approach, I can't see why we can't win the league."

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FRANKSTON PINES

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SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS

VS

CROYDON CITY

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MELBOURNE CROATIA

VS

ST ALBANS DINAMO

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21 KO 7.15

FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.

VS

GREEN GULLY

FOLLOWED BY

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS

VS

PRESTON MAKEDONIA